

Hafa Adai!

Torres hopes for better working relationship with United. » **PAGE 3**

CUC protests escalating cost of pipeline project. » **PAGE 9**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 230

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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75¢

Power lines energized 100 pct.



In this file photo, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen work on a power cable in As Lito.
DENNIS B. CHAN

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has successfully energized 100 percent of Saipan as all power lines are now back on the grid, meeting their “before Thanksgiving” deadline to restore power on the island.

» **However, expect temporary power interruptions**

“One hundred percent of our power lines are now energized,” public information officer Brad Ruszala told *Saipan Tribune*. According to Ruszala, all primary and secondary lines have been online since Nov. 9.

“We have the ability now to get everybody power. Before, we didn’t have lines up everywhere. Now that all the lines are up, it’s just a matter of getting people connected,” he added.

Some houses and customers may still be in the dark, however, due to various reasons.

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DUE TO FAILURE OF PREVIOUS PROJECTS:

PSS to be barred from CDBG funds

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A citation that would prevent the Public School System from applying for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.’s community development block grant will soon be issued by the housing agency.

In a board meeting yesterday, NMHC deputy corporate director Zenie Mafnas reported to the board that a letter is being drafted for PSS that enumerates several projects that NMHC has issues.

“I am almost done drafting the letter to basically disallow PSS from applying for any more CDBG funds in the future until they resolve all these matters: one, being the [Marianas High School] loss of inventory back in 2008; two, being the failure to construct the

See PSS on Page 4

Man gets 10-year imprisonment for stabbing, beating handicapped mom

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

“For a son to violently beat and break the bones of his own mother goes against the law, CNMI culture, and human decency.”

Thus stated Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday in slapping Jaron Ronald with a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment for as-

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INSIDE



WORLD

French police hunt for a second terrorist that escaped after the Paris attacks.

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ENVIRONMENT

President Obama says bold climate action will be a boon for businesses worldwide.

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LIFE & STYLE

Cate Blanchett is honored at the Museum of Modern Art’s eighth annual film benefit.

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Local

BSI eyes govt tie-up on anti-gaming addiction program

Saipan casino licensee Best Sunshine International, Ltd. has taken significant steps to work with stakeholders in the government to provide services addressing gambling addiction on

the islands.

Recognizing that gambling addiction is a serious issue, Best Sunshine also believes that rehabilitation is an equally serious issue that needs to be addressed.

Bruce Loprete, Best Sunshine's VP of Security and Surveillance and head of the company's Voluntary Exclusion Program, said the company has been training employees for

the past three months to support players with a program that evolved from the need to address problem gambling. The self-ban program demands that the participant refrain from

entering the casino facility. Among its set of rules is being subject to arrest and criminal action for trespassing.

Additionally, a pamphlet called Game Responsibly is displayed prominently around the casino so that players can proactively seek help.

"We have the direction from the Gaming Commission—what we have to teach and what we have to do. And with these are guidelines from the commission on things that we have to comply with, such as training, keeping and sending confidential records of anyone who wants to sign up for the program," Loprete said.

Esther Milne, Best Sunshine manager for Corporate Social Responsibility, said: "Best Sunshine already has a program in place and currently we are in the process of strengthening that available support by creat-

ing a program at a local level. We are creating a task force and we've identified some people in the government and in the private sector who we are reaching out to, so we can come together and meet as a group, and start at the grassroots of creating and shaping this rehabilitation program, ideally intended to help addicted gamblers acknowledge responsibility for their behavior and aim at changing it."

"We're looking to entities and organizations who will be the referral for services needed to compound into this locally-initiated gambling rehabilitation program," Loprete added.

In the Best Sunshine pamphlet, you will find a 24-hour Confidential National Helpline: National Council on Problem Gambling

■ Hotline: +1 800 522 4700
■ Chat: ncpgambling.org/chat
■ www.ncpgambling.org (BSI)

Attao seeks to establish revolving fund for NI

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A House bill introduced this week seeks to establish a revolving fund for the Northern Islands from revenue generated from licensing and permit fees from commercial and recreational activities, as well as from fines generated from illegal cultivation and domestication of plants and animals. The bill provides that the Northern

Islands mayor and the secretary of the Department of Land and Natural Resources will create these rules, fines, and fees.

House Bill 19-108 is authored by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and seeks to "provide the Northern Islands with an opportunity to utilize their resources and flourish economically."

The Finance secretary will establish the fund, the bill states.

Twenty-five percent of the

fund will go to DLNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Another 25 percent will go to a "special account for educational expeditions" to the Northern Islands, under the Finance Department.

Fifty percent of the fund will go to the Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands.

The bill notes that the Northern Islands has an abundance of land resources and is home to the most pristine aquatic life in the CNMI,

but lacks the needed funding to compete economically.

"Allowing the Northern Islands to properly domesticate and cultivate their plant and animal life accordingly will give them the opportunity they need to flourish," the bill states.

"The marine life in the Northern Islands is abundant with different kinds of fish and maritime resources. Therefore, the Northern Islands will be able to flourish provided the necessary fishing and retailing equipment are secured," the bill also states.



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Torres hopes for better working relationship with United

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres hopes for a better working relationship with United Airlines, whose subsidiary, Cape Air, has been much maligned for poor services between the CNMI and Guam.

In an interview, Torres said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of business de-

velopment in the Asia Pacific, paid a courtesy visit to his office yesterday.

One item discussed was the open letter to United that both Guam and CNMI attorneys general sent this month, lamenting the "subpar and declining quality of service" on United's Guam-Honolulu international route.

"We talked about the letter that was written by both attor-

neys general, but also to have just a courtesy visit," Torres said. "We did talk about the time when the air transportation between Saipan and Guam was very difficult but I also thanked him for a quick response on their contribution during [Typhoon] Soudelor."

"I know that there were several flights that were arranged—both cargo and personnel—that flew in from Guam that was not charged to the CNMI or those individuals

that contributed," he said.

Torres believes that flights lately have been more steady, and commended Shinohara on that.

"I hope that the issues that transpired that we have experienced on Saipan and Guam are in the past," he said, noting that Shinohara made a firm commitment that transportation would continue with better services.

"I thank him for his courtesy visit. We look forward to working with him, and a bet-

ter relationship," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Shinohara also met with CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Guam Attorney General Elizabeth Andersen yesterday, who is on island, according to AGO public affairs officer Carla Torres. She said a statement from both AGs was forthcoming.

The joint letter earlier this month this money raised concerns over the loss of free in-flight meals, increased

costs for luggage, loss of free entertainment, older planes causing frequent breakdowns, and insufficient flight crews, to name a few.

Manibusan earlier said the letter was the first of many ventures the Consumer Protection Divisions of the CNMI and Guam Attorney General's Office would embark on under a cooperative agreement between the two offices on behalf of local consumers for both islands.

Habitual offenders, watch out!

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill to penalize habitual criminal offenders in the Commonwealth.

House Bill 19-109 implements a penalty provision into the law for repeat offenders. It notes that repeat criminal offenders are a proven and problematic issue in the CNMI, and a threat to the community, tourists, and businesses.

The bill amends the Commonwealth Code to read: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted in a court of the Northern Marianas Islands shall be punishable by imprisonment of no less than 15 years if the person has been convicted (and those convictions have become final) on separate prior occasions in a court of the Northern Mariana Islands of two or more theft, burglary, and/or robbery convictions. The sentence shall be suspended if the person

decides to leave the Northern Mariana Islands and not return for the duration of the sentence as ordered by the court."

"Repeat offenders must be punished pertinently," the bill states.

"Some convicts find prison to be a place of convenience. Some convicts constantly commit crimes for reasons such as they are given a free place to sleep along with free food to eat. These individuals are taking advantage of taxpayer dollars for selfish and unreasonable reasons."

"This type of attitude must not be tolerated and proper measures must be implemented to deter this type of behavior from continuing."

The bill also notes that the addition of new inmates can be costly to the CNMI government. Also, the limited capacity in correction facilities may not be able to accommodate an influx of repeat offenders, the bill says.

The bill is cited as the "Northern Marianas Three Strikes Act of 2015."

Melvin Ada's sentencing reset anew

The scheduled sentencing of former Commonwealth Health Center employee Melvin Garong Ada on Tuesday did not push through for several reasons.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona continued the sentencing for Dec. 2, 2015, at 1:30pm and set the restitution hearing for Feb. 12, 2016 at 9am.

Attorney Colin Thompson, court-appointed counsel for Ada, informed the court that the defense would need more time.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe said the U.S. government was prepared to go forward with the hearing but didn't opposed the postponement in light of Thompson's representation that he did not met with his client.

Backe, however, did not object to Ada's request for a continuance of the sentencing.

Thompson said that, as of Friday afternoon, he received the U.S. government's sentencing brief and sentencing exhibits, but that he has not had the time to discuss them with Ada.

Thompson also stated that he has not had time to discuss the changes in the final presen-

tence report by the U.S. Probation Office.

Thompson said he tried to meet with Ada over the past few days to discuss the new materials received, but the defendant was ill and not able to meet with him.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg stated she would be filing a supplemental addendum and amended sentencing recommendation to conform to the revised offense level computation.

Backe said the issues pertaining to restitution are too complex.

Manglona granted Thompson's motion to continue the sentencing.

In October 2013, Ada pleaded guilty to 56 charges for misusing over 1.7 million intended as payment for a medical supplier company. The original sentencing date was March 7, 2014.

Last June 26, a federal jury acquitted Melvin Ada's wife, Leyda Ada, of the charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering. The jury, however, found her guilty of perjury. She has yet to be sentenced. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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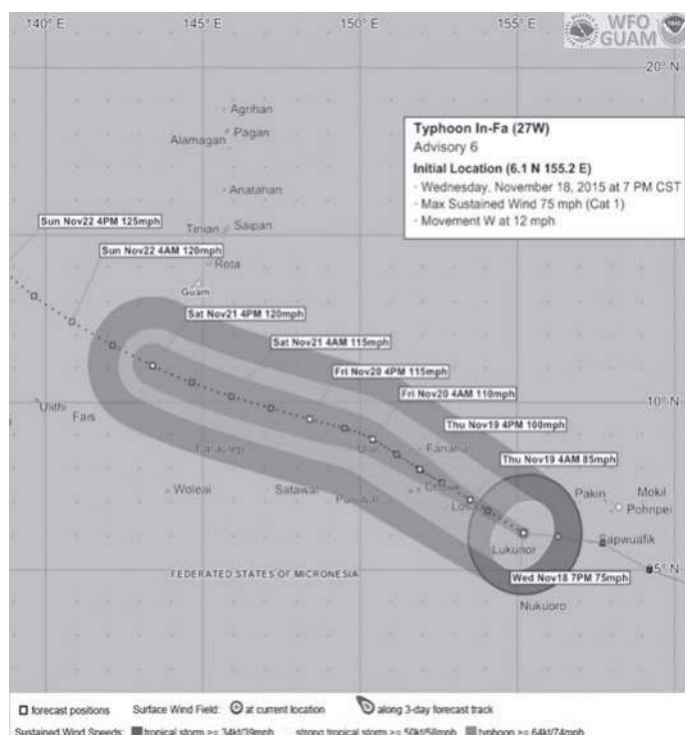
Tropical storm seen to become a typhoon today

Tropical Storm In-Fa is looking better organized east of Lukunor, according to the latest information from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center.

As of 4pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm In-Fa was located by satellite about 905 miles southeast of Guam and about 930 miles southeast of Saipan. It is moving west-northwest at 17 mph.

Tropical Storm In-Fa is expected to continue in this direction with a slight decrease in forward speed through today, Thursday. In-Fa will turn more to the west tonight and Friday. This track will take In-Fa between Fananu and Chuuk Lagoon as a typhoon today.

Maximum sustained winds



remain at 60 mph. In-Fa is expected to continue intensifying over the next few days, becoming a typhoon this evening. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 85 miles from the center.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center will be monitoring the movement of Tropical Storm In-Fa and will be issuing bulletins as they become available. Continue to monitor the official bulletins which will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz or call the CNMI EOC dispatch center at 237-8000 or visit our website at www.cnmi-hsem.gov.mp, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC dispatch center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. (**HSEM**)

NMC PROA program to begin in SY 2016

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will begin implementing Project PROA, or Promotion and Retention Opportunities for Advancement, in school year 2016.

Project PROA is part of a \$269,023 grant awarded earlier this year by the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions Program. It is the first budget installment of the five-year \$1.4-million grant program.

According to the grant proposal, the goal is to improve and expand the capacity of NMC to increase the number and proportion of high-need Chamorro and Carolinian students who are academically prepared to attend and graduate from NMC on time.

Last year, the college reported that 90 percent of incoming NMC students were

at remedial level. The PROA program seeks to address this issue for students of Chamorro and Carolinian descent.

Those eligible for the program must have a need for academic support in order to successfully pursue a degree at NMC, are a low-income individual based upon federal guidelines, are below their grade level equivalency in reading and math of at least below two grade levels, at risk of failing, or an individual with a disability that fits the criteria.

The proposed project aims to increase academic advancement in three phases for a five-year grant period.

The Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions Program awards a maximum grant of \$300,000 per year for five years for a total award of \$1.5 million. The average award ranges from \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year.

PSS

From Page 1

Saipan Southern High School swimming pool back in 2013," Mafnas said.

The CDBG funding assistance comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which the CNMI has been receiving since 1975.

PSS basically applies for

CDBG funding every year, according to Mafnas.

Mafnas told the board that PSS has been "non-cooperative since the beginning" and noted that NMHC had to reimburse HUD the \$69,000 for the lost inventory.

"They basically put us at risk of losing CDBG funds every year. We've managed to address that except that with MHS inventory, HUD was just...basically,

the CNMI needs to pay back the \$69,000. The reimbursement did happen," Mafnas said.

The amount for the SSSH swimming pool, on the other hand, is about \$16,000.

"We gave them the funds for A&E. The condition when you fund an A&E project is that we must assure that the construction is completed. We communicated that with PSS but they failed to construct the pool.

We funded the A&E, we gave them also money for the construction but we had to reprogram the money because they were not going to construct when already the A&E work was completed," Mafnas said in an interview during a break in the board meeting.

NMHC may again need to reimburse the federal agency for the fund spent on A&E work done for the pool.

"Technically the amount for the A&E work should be reimbursed again but HUD hasn't imposed that on us yet," Mafnas said.

Asked if PSS has to pay them for the amount they reimbursed HUD, Mafnas said, "We're going to pursue the matter for reimbursement, but if it doesn't happen then that's the citation that we're going to impose. They can't apply for CDBG in the future."

In the meeting, NMHC board member Diego Songao suggested that NMHC try to discuss with PSS a possible project that will benefit the school system and will also be agreeable to the housing agency, instead of having PSS pay them what it owes.

"I think you should try to see the commissioner and discuss that. Once it's agreeable, then the board would have to approve that," Songao said.



MOON CRATER ON EARTH

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A vehicle tries to avoid a big pothole on Texas Road across the entrance of Lake Park Apartment in Susupe. This pothole poses danger to motorists particularly during rainy days. Until the Saipan Mayor's Office or the Department of Public Works takes action, an accident is just waiting to happen.

MAN

From Page 1

sault with a dangerous weapon.

Ronald, 25, stabbed and beat his physically handicapped 63-year-old mother at their home in Kagman last Jan. 21. He pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

Camacho said that Ronald's action "shocks the conscience of this court." He said the handicapped elderly woman herself asked the court for help and protection from her own son.

"This court will protect her and make sure she is safe," the judge said.

When police responded to the house, Ronald claimed that his mother hurt herself after falling

from her bed. Police later found that he actually stabbed her with a knife and beat her up.

Ronald pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon as part of a plea deal. Four other charges—aggravated assault and battery, senior citizen physical abuse, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—were dropped.

Acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds recommended the maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig recommended five years in prison.

Camacho said a sentence of 10 years in prison is appropriate because Ronald used a knife to stab and beat his own mother, causing serious injuries.

He said Ronald's actions ad-

versely affect a special protected group, the *man'amko*. The CNMI Legislature considers the elderly a special and protected group deserving of respect and protection.

Camacho said Ronald physically abused and tortured his mother on several occasions—hitting, slapping, burning, and stabbing her—causing broken bones, dislocated fingers, bleeding of the brain, bruising, and other injuries. The victim herself states that she is afraid of her son and wants him to stay in jail, he said.

In this case, the judge said, Ronald used a knife to stab and hurt the victim.

Camacho said Ronald admits to using illegal drugs and abuse of alcohol. He said the mother

and a witness gave statements that Ronald uses butane canisters to get high.

The mother has stated that her son repeatedly hit, slapped, and tortured her by stabbing her hand with a knife and burning her right arm with a butane canister. The injuries resulted in the victim's loss of function of her right hand. Now, she needs assistance when she needs to use the restroom. This may be Roland's first conviction but this is not the first time he physically abused his mother, Camacho said. Once, Ronald threatened to kill his mother because she urinated and soiled the bed. Camacho said Ronald hit the victim several times, causing her to lose consciousness.

POWER

From Page 1

"The people who currently don't have power, it's because they need a transformer in their area to bring the power down so they can use it at the house or they need to get their weather head repaired or they need their meter inspected and get a drop line service," Ruszala said.

CUC is moving to the next phase of power restoration, which, ironically, would have residents experiencing more—but temporary—power outages.

CUC said it is now focusing on portions of Saipan's power transmission and distribution system that were less seriously damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

"The first part was to go through and get all the power restored on the feeders and now the lines are back, we're fixing things that were observed were needed," said acting CUC executive director John Riegel.

Riegel said they are making sure that things are up to standard and are good for the long term.

"If it was good enough, they left it, but noting that we have to come back and address this. They are even doing some of the poles. Some of the poles were compromised but good enough to serve for a short period of time and now they're going in and putting in new poles," Riegel said.

For this, the corporation will conduct a series of temporary power interruptions to allow linemen safe access to the pri-

mary lines for the replacement of essential power distribution materials.

"They need to do more frequent shutdowns for power to increase our efficiency in making other line repairs on laterals and connections. People can expect to see more of those," Riegel said.

He added that the power interruptions are necessary so that they can take full advantage while the men helping CUC are here.

The only visiting team left on Saipan to help with the power restoration, Primary Source Electric, will only be here until Dec. 18.

To maximize resources and accomplish their restoration goals as quickly as possible, CUC will schedule two to three interruptions per week.

Starting 8am Saturday, power interruptions will be experienced in Puerto Rico, Navy Hill (Upper and Lower), Garapan, Chinatown, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, and along Quartermaster Drive to replace deteriorated power poles and hardware. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to nine hours to complete.

Next Tuesday, Nov. 24, a six-hour interruption is scheduled for Chalan Piao to replace deteriorated power poles and to install two air break switches.

The following Saturday, Nov. 28, expect power interruption for up to nine hours along the Kiya 2 feeder, including San Antonio, Koblerville, and As Lito as CUC will replace nine deteriorated power poles and hardware.

Camacho ordered Ronald to serve his sentence without the possibility of parole and early release.

The judge also ordered the clerk of court to provide a copy of his sentencing order to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Ronald is a citizen of Palau.

Fund's proposed budget: \$48.6M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund's proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 is \$48.6 million, according to Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang. This is a 4.11-percent reduction from the fiscal 2015 budget of \$50.8 million.

Of the \$48,636,413 budgeted for fiscal 2016, \$46.54 million is allocated to Fund members' pension benefits and disability payments, Tang said.

She said \$848,413 is budgeted for wages, salaries, and

employer expenses; \$899,500 for consultant and professional fees; \$338,500 for other general and administrative expenses; and \$10,000 for other expenses.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 is among the issues that Tang discussed in her report that was filed over the weekend in federal court. It covers the second, third and fourth quarters of fiscal year 2015.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood will hear the report tomorrow, Friday.

Tang said the Settlement Fund

continues to implement a conservative investment policy because it is not able to take high levels of capital markets risks.

With respect to consultants, the trustee disclosed that the Fund has retained three consultants: Wilshire Investments as its investment consultant; Milliman Inc. as its actuary consultant; and Ernest & Young as its auditor.

Tang said Maggie Ralbolovsky, a principal of Wilshire, is still the principal investment advisor for the Fund.

She said Wilshire's contract was renewed for fiscal year 2016.

Man arrested for violating probation terms

A U.S. Marshal agent arrested on Tuesday probationer Ryan Taitano Babauta for allegedly using methamphetamine or "ice" and violating other conditions of his probation.

Taitano was taken to U.S. District Court for the NMI for an initial appearance hearing on Tuesday afternoon.

Attorney Michael Dotts appeared as court-appointed counsel for Babauta.

Dotts stated that he has reviewed the U.S. Probation's petition for revocation of Babauta's probation but has yet to review it in detail with his client.

Dotts entered a denial to all the allegations contained in the petition and requested for a preliminary hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the revocation hearing for Dec. 3, 2015, at 1:30pm.

Manglona informed Babauta of the allegations and the basis for her to issue a warrant for his arrest.

"You have a long history of problems," the judge told Babauta.

Manglona said she understands that Babauta has a new baby and a job.

"It's up to you. You need to get off of drugs," the judge said.

After the hearing, Manglona remanded Babauta into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing appeared for the U.S. government.

In the petition, U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola said

Babauta admitted using "ice" on Sept. 30, 2015, as well as on Oct. 14 and 27, 2015.

Arriola said Babauta also failed to report to the U.S. Probation Office on Sept. 8, 2015, and on Oct. 2 and 5, 2015.

Babauta also allegedly failed to report to counseling sessions on Oct. 13 and Nov. 4, 5, and 11. He also failed to report for a random drug test on Nov. 3, 7, and 10, 2015.

The court revoked Babauta's probation at least twice in the past for using "ice" and violating other probation conditions.

In August 1999, the court slapped Babauta with a 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release, for hostage taking and felon in possession of a firearm. *(Ferdie dela Torre)*



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BEST SUNSHINE LIVE

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Ironwood tenants to start moving in this week

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 25 to 30 tenants are in the process of moving in this week to Ironwood Saipan, the newly constructed housing project in Gualo Rai, as the groundwork for the complex nears comple-

tion. A total of 80 apartment units will eventually be available.

Ironwood was first started in Guam with the completion of five Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects but then Ironwood Saipan took over the Blue Water Homes Saipan project that was under the Low

Income Housing Tax Credit, using financing garnered from R4 Capital and Citibank.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program started through the Northern Marianas Corp. in 2011. It was made possible through the U.S. Congress Tax Reform Act of 1986 that gives incentives for the use of private equity in the development of low-income housing for Americans.

The LIHTC works by funding the development costs of low-income housing based on U.S. standards by allowing an investor to take a federal tax credit equal to a percentage of the cost incurred for developing low-income housing. The developer, in this case Ironwood, completes the project, certifies its cost, and rents units out to low-income tenants for a 15-year compliance period and in return receives tax credit. These tax credits are favorable for businesses in the long run because it is a tax incentive that directly reduces the amount of tax required by law. After the period is up, the low income-housing affordability requirements will expire and may be converted to market-rate housing.

Presently, Ironwood Saipan is accepting applications as well as applicants using Section 8 vouchers. Two-, three-, and four-bedroom units are available for viewing and are fully equipped with energy-efficient amenities such as solar power, solar water heating, 24-hour

water, LED lighting, tinted glass, air-conditioning, refrigerators, porcelain tile floors, power surge protection, and typhoon rated windows and shutters. The complex itself is equipped with a playground, pavilions with barbecue pits, parking, a community/conference room and

24-hour surveillance.

Ironwood office hours are from Monday to Friday, 8:30am-5pm and on Saturday from 9am to 12pm at their location on Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Pizza Hut.

The apartments are currently priced at \$656 for two bedrooms, \$745 for three bedrooms, and \$797 for four bedrooms. Interested applicants

however, will be considered based on annual income limits. For a household of one person, their annual income must not go above \$26,040, for a household of two, the cutoff is \$29,760. Other annual limits are available on their website for up to an eight-person household.

For more information, call 233-4348 or log onto ironwood-housing.com.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board Meeting on Monday, November 23, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
- Adoption of Agenda
- Correspondence

II. Public Comments *

III. Executive Session **

- Leidos - Integrated Resource Plan
- Consultation with the Legal Counsel on Personnel and Operation Matters

IV. Adjournment

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Dive master gets 6-month prison term for killing spotted eagle ray

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dive master Hu Jie Fang was slapped yesterday with a six-month prison term for killing a protected spotted eagle ray.

The sentence is similar to the one Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed on the 28-year-old Fang in June last year.

At a bench trial on June 18, 2014, Fang was found guilty of killing a protected ray. He was slapped with the maximum sentence of six months in prison.

Fang appealed to the NMI Supreme Court. In its decision, the high court issued an opinion that a presentence investigation report shall be conducted upon a defendant's request.

Because of the high court's ruling, Fang had to be resentenced yesterday. He was given credit for four months of time already served.

After the hearing, Fang was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds recommended the maximum sentence of six months imprisonment.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer recommended a sentence of four months in prison with credit for four months of time served.

Meyer said Fang already spent four months in prison—a lengthy sentence considering that no humans were hurt in this crime.

Meyer said after the resolution of this case, Fang's plan is for his son and wife to go to Japan. He said Fang has no immigration status and that he shot the ray because he was trying to support his family.

Fang has no criminal history.

Camacho said a sentence of six months in prison is appropriate because Fang, as a dive instructor, intentionally killed a protected species and that his actions adversely affect the CNMI community.

Camacho said the Legislature finds that evidence suggests the eagle rays have been hunted to

such an extent as to threaten their population levels and as to instill an unnatural fear of divers, thereby threatening one aspect of the Commonwealth's revenues.

Camacho said the Legislature finds that spotted eagle rays specifically, and rays generally, are not traditional food fishes in the CNMI.

"Fishing specifically for such rays is not a tradition in the CNMI; the recent practice of doing so is detrimental to the welfare of the Commonwealth and should be prohibited..." Camacho said.

The judge said the Legislature has spoken clearly on this issue and this court is duty bound to follow that mandate.

According to court papers, sometime between December 2013 and January 2014, Fang was conducting a dive tour with some tourists at the popular dive spot—Eagle Ray City—off the western coast of Saipan when he shot and killed a 3-foot wide protected spotted eagle ray with a spear gun.

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Renewing Kan Pacific's lease is economically responsible, makes good sense and is simply the right thing to do for our island and our families.

High court vacates sentence, remands case for resentencing

The NMI Supreme Court issued a ruling yesterday in *Commonwealth v. Borja*, vacating an order signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentencing Anthony Borja to 10 years imprisonment because the judge failed to impose an individualized sentence.

The opinion addresses Borja's four arguments on appeal. Borja argued the trial court erred by holding the sentencing hearing on Saipan instead of Tinian. The Supreme Court found Borja's argument unpersuasive because the case law cited failed to support his proposition that 6 CMC § 108(a) requires the entire case be heard on the island where the offense occurred. Further, the high court found Borja's NMI Rule of Criminal Procedure 18 argument inapposite because Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 18 requires only trials—

not other proceedings—be held in the "division" where the offense was committed.

Second, Borja argued that the trial court erred because he was denied his right of allocution before imposition of his sentence. Borja also contended he was deprived of his right, established by NMI Rule of Criminal Procedure 32, to call witnesses at sentencing. The high court disagreed, stating that Borja was not denied his right of allocution because the record indicates he was directly addressed by the court prior to sentencing. Further, the high court held that NMI Rule of Criminal Procedure 32 does not provide defendants with the right to call witnesses at sentencing.

Third, Borja argued that the trial court abused its discretion by failing to order a presen-

tence investigation report. The Supreme Court held that abuse of discretion was the incorrect standard of review because Borja neither requested a presentence investigation report nor objected to the trial court's failure to order one. Instead, the high court held the correct standard of review was plain error. Moreover, the high court found that Borja failed to satisfy all prongs of plain error review because it was unclear whether the error affected the outcome of the proceeding.

Lastly, Borja argued that the trial court failed to impose an individualized sentence. Here, the Supreme Court agreed, stating that the imposition of the maximum sentence was unwarranted because the trial court failed to consider information beyond the act of the crime. Particularly, the high court noted that the

sentence was not sufficiently individualized because information particular to Borja's life went unacknowledged. Further, the trial court failed to request

a presentence investigation report, which compiles information relevant to the particular circumstances of a defendant and is helpful in imposing individualized sentences.

Because the trial court did not impose an individualized

sentence, the high court vacated Borja's sentence and remanded to the trial court for resentencing.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme15.html>. (NMI Judiciary)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kristo Rai Parish Fiesta on Nov. 22

The public is invited to attend the fiesta for Kristo Rai parish this Sunday at 9:30am. Fr. Tom Benz of the Society of Jesus will be the guest homilist. Novena and Mass will be followed by a short procession followed by food, entertainment, and a mini sports festival. (PR)

Kagman schools' PTSA gathering on Thursday

The Kagman Schools PTSA is inviting all stakeholders of the Kagman schools to a meeting this Thursday, Nov. 19, at 5pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. We will be unveiling our committee focus and goals for the year. All PTSA attendees get raffle tickets to win prizes the night of the meeting and for a chance to win in the

BIG End of the Year raffle. The more you attend, the more chances to win! The BIG End of the Year raffle grand prize is a flat screen TV! (PR)

USDOL official at November SHRM meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter will have Patrick Candeleta, Assistant District Director for the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, presenting at its November general membership meeting. This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. This presentation is open to the public. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM

members and \$30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Micah Parico-Acuavera by phone at 234-1795 or by e-mail at corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com or by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (SHRM)

Free medical mission on Nov. 22

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Saipan will be hosting a free medical mission on Nov. 22, 2015, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse, from 3pm to 6pm. There will be blood sugar and blood pressure check, body massage/reflex, facial cleansing, haircut, eye screening, snacks, giveaways, and counseling/prayers for the sick. For more information, call Pastor Claire at 789-7566. (PR)

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CUC protests escalating cost of pipeline project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the federal court to intervene in the \$4.6-million fuel pipeline project as it estimates that more than \$8.8 million will be spent for the construction of the new pipeline under the management of Gilbane Federal before it is finally completed.

CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok noted that, although Gilbane Federal continues to mobilize construction of the pipeline at a total cost factor of at least \$8.8 million, there has been no change to the \$4.6 million funding ceiling of the project.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based full service construction company that was appointed by federal court to manage and expeditiously complete some of CUC's stalled projects.

According to Sirok, Gilbane Federal has already spent close to \$1 million on travels, meetings, and preparing plans alone.

Sirok brought up the escalating costs of the pipeline project in CUC's request for the U.S. District Court for the NMI to set a status conference to discuss Gilbane Federal's performance.

The lawyer pointed out that the scope of work currently

calls for the construction of the pipeline using a trenching method for all but 700 feet of the pipeline's length, based on

» **CUC counsel Sirok says \$4.6M is funding ceiling, but \$8.8M is estimated to be spent**

» **EEMC allegedly spent close to \$1M on travels, meetings, plans**

drilling methodology for up to 4,900 feet of the pipeline's length using Vanderpool's trenching design without making any changes to it.

Furthermore, Sirok said, Gilbane Federal will not inform CUC of the estimated depth at which the pipeline will be built using this method, except for the depth of the originally planned 700 feet going under the creek bed.

Sirok said CUC objects to the use of horizontal drilling method for any length of the pipeline other than the 700 feet going under the creek bed.

He said the statement of work remains unchanged and calls for the construction of the pipeline using a trenching method.

Sirok said the construction and costs for the project have escalated to over \$8.8 million, although the funding ceiling remains unchanged at \$4.6 million.

The lawyer said there are also foreseeable issues for CUC related to post-construction repair and maintenance if the horizontal drilling method is used.

Sirok urged the court to instead allow CUC to repair and replace defective sections of the existing pipeline at a much lower cost.

Sirok questioned the need for the construction of the new pipeline at such a high cost when its future length of use is in danger of being shortened because of the construction of

a new power plant in a different location on Saipan.

Last Feb. 5, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved an additional funding of \$2.6 million to complete the construction of the pipeline project. DOI's total funding for the pipeline project now balloons to \$8.1 million since the project was initiated in 2010.

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:


- Nov. 23, from 1pm to 5pm
- Nov. 24-25, from 11am to 3pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Nov. 24, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm


The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI.

W-517 is an irregular polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, 12° 50'N/144° 30'E. (PR)



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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at As Paris Restaurant in Songsong Village on the island of Rota. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:



AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS 1. Call to Order 2. Roll Call	3. Adoption of Agenda 4. Adoption of Minutes (October 21, 2015)
II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)	
III. EXECUTIVE SESSION	
IV. CORRESPONDENCES	
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS 1. Financial Affairs Committee 2. Airport Facilities Committee	3. Seaport Facilities Committee 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	
VII. OLD BUSINESS 1. Delta Shares	
VIII. NEW BUSINESS 1. Tinian Airport Appropriations 2. Supplemental Budget Request - Airport 3. Personnel: Employment Contract renewals 4. Job Vacancy Announcement(s) 5. CPA Contracts	
IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS	
X. ADJOURNMENT	

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFI
Chairman, Board of Directors

November 18, 2015



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Volume XXV, Issue No. 230

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Shutting door on Syrian refugees helps Islamic State

Of all the reactions to Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris, some U.S. politicians' objections to resettling Syrian refugees may be the most irrational. President Barack Obama has pledged to let in 10,000 people fleeing the carnage in Syria, but governors of at least a dozen states now say they won't accept any. Presidential candidate Ted Cruz wants to admit only Christians.

Certainly, the Paris attacks were a gruesome reminder that all civilized societies need to be vigilant against Islamist extremism. And reports that one of the attackers probably entered Europe through a Greek refugee camp last month indicate that the continent will have to tighten its security.

But the American system for harboring people fleeing war and repression is different from that of Europe, which is struggling with a flood of refugees turning up in boats on its shores. In the U.S., it's a careful, lengthy process that has always put domestic security first. Just as important, it's a manifestation of cherished ideals from a nation founded largely by people fleeing oppression.

Getting permission for refuge in the U.S. takes 18 months to two years. For a displaced Syrian, it usually starts with an application to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, after which nongovernmental aid groups hired by the U.S. State Department check to make sure the person is eligible for refugee status. Then, the application is reviewed by a host of U.S. agencies, including the National Counterterrorism Center, the Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Department and sometimes the intelligence services. Officials conduct in-person interviews at refugee camps and subject applicants to what the State Department describes as its highest-level security checks for people entering the country.

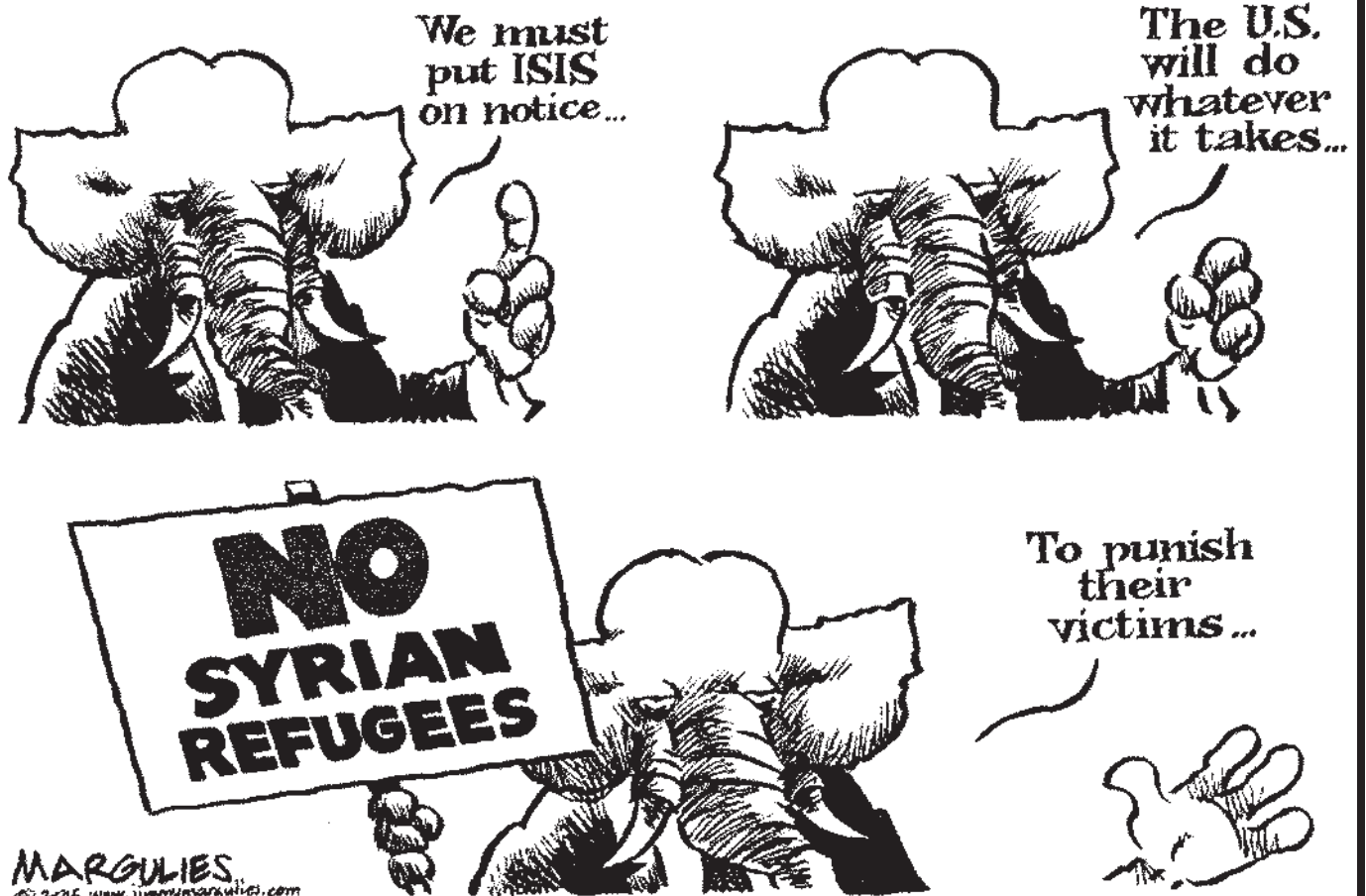
The process is restrictive—in the four years since Syria's civil war started, about 2,000 Syrians have been admitted—and expensive. Last year, the U.S. spent more than \$1 billion on the effort, or about \$16,000 per person.

Even if refugee numbers pick up, as Obama has requested, the program will remain carefully cumbersome. It will never be an easy or sure way for Islamic State to place agents in the U.S.

Americans should weigh that unlikely concern against the suffering of refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey—themselves victims of Islamic State. They've lost their homes and seen loved ones die. And in the camps, rape and extortion are widespread. As the crisis wears on, overwhelmed host states are becoming less generous; Jordan last year stopped providing free medical care.

It's this deteriorating situation that should most alarm the West. If the legal pipeline is closed, more refugees will turn to human-smuggling networks or succumb to Islamic State recruitment efforts. The best way to protect uprooted Syrians will be to end the war in Syria. In the meantime, refusing to help the refugees betrays American ideals, and can only increase the extremists' appeal.

(c)2015 Bloomberg News



What can France do?

Friday night, in the center of Paris, hundreds of people were gunned down as they enjoyed the warm November weather, ate dinner or took in a show. At this point, 129 have died. In a statement claiming responsibility for the attack, Islamic State promised more horror to come and called France a "capital of prostitution and obscenity."

Why did Islamic State choose Paris, still recovering from January's attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo?

It's not the only target, of course: London, Madrid, New York and many cities across the Middle East have been hit. But there seem to be more terrorist attempts in France and more "homegrown" terrorists than in neighboring countries. At least one of the murderers was a Frenchman with a criminal record. The Charlie Hebdo killers were French too.

One reason for France's plight, often mentioned, is its colonial past. It fought a bloody war against Algerian independence forces from 1954 to 1962; these battle lines spilled over to Paris and continue to shape French politics. As the "protector" of Morocco, Syria and Lebanon, France left a legacy of cultural and economic influence. France still intervenes militarily in Muslim-majority countries. It sent troops to Mali in 2012 when radical Islamic militants rebelled against the central government, and it has been launching airstrikes against Islamic State in Syria.

A young, angry, potential jihadi growing up in Beirut, Damascus or Algiers might see the United States as the greater enemy, but it's far away. France is familiar and nearby, and he probably has cousins there. His recruiter may be French.

France also breeds potential jihadis on its own soil—young Muslim men who feel excluded from the secular-Christian mainstream. The police profile of the French jihadi looks something like this: He lives in a tall housing tower with little in the way of sports facilities or neighborhood clubs. His town is on the outskirts of a major city, whether Paris, Lyon or Lille. He may be of Moroccan or Algerian ancestry, but he feels few ties to those societies. He is unlikely to find a good job; his name and his postal code put him at the bottom of the list. He is envious of the rich—those young people enjoying their lives in the center of Paris on Friday night. He may also blame Jews for his distress; nowhere in Western Europe have the intifadas been more intensely divisive than in France.

Britain has also produced homegrown terrorists, of course, but the very feature of the British Muslim landscape most derided by its leaders—closed communities—may be its saving grace. People from Bangladesh or Pakistan tend to live together in British urban neighborhoods. They import imams from the

By **JOHN R. BOWEN**
Los Angeles Times

John R. Bowen is a professor at Washington University in St. Louis and the author of Can Islam be French? He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



old country and try to maintain a strong sense of tradition. Ideas and behaviors change, but social networks remain stronger than in France. Pakistanis have large and intricate kin-based circles. Bangladeshis start charter schools, and pupils in those schools perform better than the national average. Things aren't perfect, but there is community.

What can France do? I leave aside the questions of border security, surveillance and military strategy in Syria; those are above my pay grade. But I have two recommendations for how President Francois Hollande can improve matters at home. One, break the isolation. Continue efforts already begun to redesign the urban landscape so that it encourages a sense of national belonging rather than a sense of exclusion. Cease the repeated efforts to stigmatize practicing Muslims with silly rules banning face coverings in public or preventing school officials from offering non-pork meal options to children. The French prize their laïcité—their strict separation of church and state—but there should be room for religious observance in a free, open society.

Second, recognize that mainstream Islamic teachers are part of the solution. Many have worked hard to build cultural associations and religious schools where young people can learn a more complex and responsible idea of Islam. Understand that they base their teachings in a centuries-old body of work, as do Roman Catholic, Jewish and other religious scholars, and stop telling them to devise a brand new "French Islam." They are citizens or long-term residents of France and participants in global networks of religious scholarship. Whether they help in religious schools or as chaplains in the prisons, they need much more recognition and support from the French state.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen has called for closing all French Islamic organizations. But saner minds must resist the temptation to lash out at Muslim fellow citizens or at legitimate refugees, which can only lead to more alienation. This is a time for solidarity, not division.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

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Hu suspepecha na este na pinadesen maplanuye para umana` popble i tanu `nai todú u fan mamadesen. Ginen este na pinadesen fuetsau siempre makonduse i industrian casino halom. Inipos na disonru i para umana` fan tekun i publiku pot planon casino. Este ha` solu uttimu nina` siñan niha `nai uttimofia siha i benefisiu ya i publiku poñgupuñg `ansopbla gi hilu` satge?

Dispues de fuetsau mana` popble i tanu`, sige pa`gu mañguntos na mampos didog problemán pinebble guine. Ke lau hamyu man-responsable ni futtunan i tautau. Kau guaha mas dinage dispues de todú malabidan miyu? Hamyu umesague i publiku gi hilu` miserap-ble na modun lina`la` ya para in` sasañgan kondision ni hamyu umafuetsas gi tautau siha?

Gi hilu` este na insuttu, manmalefa na pot katotse (14) años taya` adelantu gi linala` familia siha. Mientras tantu todú gastu deste hinemlu` yan fektos siha sige manpakpak kuetis hulu` gi mapagahes kulan tiempon feria! Lau, manmalag un` banda ya mañguntos (speech) na popble i tanu`.

Haf` defektoña este na mañan manma`gas? Dudayu` kau gueku (empty) na speech siña umaregla diskuidon niha. Lau metgot lokue`

sentimentoghu na i publiku ha sentuñgu` haf` asuntoña. `An ma`hu i tautau, ni kuantu na speech pot hanom ti sinetta ma`hu estake unna` gimen! Ti mapot este na kuentas ya diariu masusesede.

Sahyan Esperansa

Hu pokate tatte finapos-ta 37 años deste ke manhalom hit petmaniente gi papa` un` relasion yan Estados Unidos De America. Guaha man-mauleg na tinilaika siha. Guaha lokue` manhinegse diskuidu. Unu hu a`atan na debi ta aregla prontu: ma-abiban kultura yan tradision tanu`. Presisu na ta pañgon tatte i hagas añgoghuyon na sahyán natibu.

I kutturata i solu sahyán esperansa gi futtunan tautau-ta. Tumestitigu deste antigu na tiempu yan pa`gu na siglu na fitme este na sahyán gi todú halom mattiru. Ginen este na galaide` `nai tasoda` adumididi` hinagoñg-ta. Sige pa`gu ta kuestiotona haf` masusesede gi hegsu` I Deni`? Kau sige ta`lu manlosus i mansabiun Best Sunshine?

Ti mana mapot ni mansabiu numa`en ñaihon i sagradu na naftan antigu na mañaina-ta pot casino. Ta dopbla este na insuttu `nai ha emplea tautau-ta mismu para u fan mamana`gue responsablidad sudadanu. Na ti hagas sahyán kultura yan tradision solu kompas `nai man-eyag hit echu che`chu` tautau?

Diberas! Kau tulaikayon dignun yan integredat natibu pot guaguan na sueddu yan sineyu` lache na pinetsige? Finu` man-amku` “fan egaga” ya in` atan haf` dichu dignun yan integredat natibu!

Destrosiun Linala`ta

Oppan yan plantau didog na chetnot yan che`chu` destrosiu siha k-nikilili` halom gi komunida maseha manu `nai ma-establese casino. Deste mamunu`, amot binenu (drugs) ni mana` fan imbeninau i man-hoben, che`chu putaria yan destrosiun uttimu guinahan familia ma-ñasaunau gi papa yan dadalag este na modun industria.

Silensiu manhalom este siha na destrosiu kulan finatton afnu` tasi, adumididi` sige` ha` bumula i tasi esta`k kanton unai. Gi bandan

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

publiku, siempre u hatme salan yan apusientun familia siha. Huli`e` este siha na chinatsaga entalu` Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Reno, yan Atlantic City. `Nos kuantos sahyán (bus) `nai manunog i manginen Las Vegas. Kanton chalan `nai manmata`choñg sa` kontodu guma` niha ma-apostan ñaihon.

Hu konsidera gi biradahu haf` mohon na tinituhon guaha gi halom ayu na batkada. Ni un` sen gi betsan niha. Mantai gima`, sahyán pat sa-lape` para siha mismu. Malachai ma-apostan ñaihon kontodu rilos yan otrú siha alahas gi tatautau niha. Tai bali tinayuyothu sa` ti ufan inayuda gi mismu diskuidon niha. Estague` na dañó manfinañagu gi komunida ni umatrebi siha chumansa kosas familia gi lugat casino.

Deste antes hu atan i difirensia giya guahu kumu danderu gi bo-nitun hotel yan i fina` fanliheñg ni ma-ekstende gi gima` i amku` `nai pa`gu umasaguayu`. Dios tiampare na difirensia macarpet i sat-gen hotel. I lugathu kontodu halom bañu fache`. `An uchan, duru lokue`uchan i halom sala. Dios tiampare!

Huñgan guaha siha fumatinas manmauleg kinalamten niha ginen sensian animu gi kada pasu. Lau mayotmiente manchatsaga gi ha-lom tautau-ta pa`gu. Estague` na tropa i mampos hana` chatsaga siñienteghu. Siña mohon tana` fan dañá hinassota yan fuetsata tu-mutuhon ayudu para i mayotmiente guine?

Paris attacks could shift presidential election

The tragedy in Paris is roiling U.S. politics, bolstering the Republican right’s anti-immigration demands in the short run and perhaps ultimately enhancing Hillary Clinton and her credentials as the candidate with experience.

Politicians from President Barack Obama on down expressed outrage at the attacks, for which the Islamic State claimed responsibility. Several leading Republicans immediately politicized the issue. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz blamed Obama and a weak “photo-op” foreign policy, and one of the party’s presidential front-runners, Donald Trump, said the tragedy reinforces the needed for “tougher” American leadership.

“This will be exceptionally important” in shaping the presidential race, said Peter D. Hart, a prominent Democratic poll-taker, suggesting it was likely to help Clinton, the only top-tier candidate in either party with a national security background.

In a debate of Democratic candidates on Saturday, she opened by stating that the U.S. would be electing a new commander in chief.

The attacks seem certain to heighten the importance of foreign policy in an election where it hasn’t been prominent. In a recent

Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, only 8 percent of the public cited terrorism as the most important issue.

The terror strikes were seized upon as a reason for cracking down on immigration. “This will help the anti- immigration cause and hurt efforts to bring in Syrian refugees,” predicted Vin Weber, a leading Republican strategist and pro-immigration advocate.

Among Republicans, the immediate speculation was about the consequences of the Paris attacks for Trump. In Iowa on Thursday, the businessman-showman let loose a particularly vicious tirade against some of his nomination rivals.

There was a growing sense within the Republican establish-ment that the “Trump rant” might be the incident that finally derails his candidacy, even though he hasn’t been affected by supposedly lethal political acts in the past. The terrorist assault could reverse any political slippage. Trump has largely set the agenda and dominated the dialogue on immigration; other candidates have followed.

Both prominent Republicans and Democrats suggested that a re-

By **ALBERT R. HUNT**

Bloomberg View



Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may send him email at ahunt1@bloomberg.net.

newed attention to terrorism could harden his core support, though an overall emphasis on foreign policy wouldn’t play to the billion-aire’s strength.

Similarly, it’s hard to see how this focus would assist Trump’s closest rival in the polls, the pediatric neurosurgeon Ben Carson, a political novice. Carson’s reaction to Paris was to call for an in-crease in military and economic assaults against radical Islamists, including by using “things that they don’t know about resources.”

Among the other leading contenders, the boyish-looking 44-year-old Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has most emphasized a hard line on national security. Yet pollster Hart predicts voters “won’t want the kid” in the White House in an era of possible foreign policy crises. Cruz, though the same age, projects greater toughness and was more forceful than his rival candidates in his response to the attacks, though he may have overreached.

Weber, one of the Republican wise men, said that with time, vot-ers may look “for someone with more gravitas.” He hopes this will play to the strength of his candidate, Jeb Bush.

The former Florida governor, seen as one of the more mature can-didates in either party, has only derivative national security creden-tials because of his family, particularly his brother, former President George W. Bush. That may prove a mixed blessing for a candidate struggling to regain his footing.

The reason Hart sees an advantage for former Secretary of State Clinton is that a greater focus on terrorism will cause voters to look even more for a “heavy and strong hand at the tiller.” This might minimize the problems she has among strongly non-interventionist Democratic primary voters because she is more hawkish on foreign policy than the president she served. And it could help her in a gen-eral election, though Republicans constantly criticize the “Obama/Clinton” weakness on foreign policy.

In the Democratic debate, Clinton took the hardest line on nation-al security: She insisted that the Islamic State “must be defeated,” not just contained, a break of sorts with Obama who last week talk-ed about containment of the group. She also stressed that she had advised Obama to approve the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Her chief challenge in the debate was criticism of her support for Wall Street, which she suggested had been linked to her efforts to rebuild New York after the Sept. 11 attacks.

However this evolves, both Republicans and Democrats agree that Nov. 13 is likely to be an important marker in the selection of the 45th American president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kan Pacific, Best Sunshine negotiating

Let’s focus on that possibility. I play golf at Kan Pacific and so do many local golfers—more than a thousand-plus. After Typhoon Soudelor devastated the island, Kan Pacific is slowly trying to re-habilitate the golf course. The thing is, it needed rehabilitation even before the typhoon struck. Maybe, just maybe, if Best Sunshine and Kan Pacific negotiate, and BSI takes over or partners with Kan Pacific. They can build a water park and rehabilitate the golf course into a pro-fessional one. It will benefit the local community as we do a lot of golf events for medical referral, community charity, etc. Remember, golf courses around the world are high-end tourist destinations and, with a water park added, it will be a win-win investment venture.

Keep it up!

Let the records show that the new liason officer at our liason office in Guam is former lawmaker Antonio R. Agulto.

Since Mr. Agulto took over our office in Guam, the work-ing atmosphere has become a happy one. The morale of the employees has greatly improved. The production of work has turned into equal pay and equal work. The seriousness of re-ported to work on time has turned into perfect attendance. And the respect among employees has them turned into broth-ers and sisters.

There’s no question that Mr. Agulto knows what he is doing in our office in Guam. Theres no question that the employees are ex-

I have to point out, though, that Marianas Country Club is the only golf course offering local rates to local golfers. All the other golf courses have managed to get rid the conditions placed upon their lease on public lands when those golf courses were first built and how they did away with it is “magic.”

I support whatever is the best way to make use of our public lands that can benefit our community. I also thank Kan Pacific for keeping our local rates in place through these trying times.

Manul J. Alvarez

Garapan, Saipan

tending their full support and cooperation to Mr. Agulto.

Yes, indeed, complaints will always arise, whether big or small, true or false. But the reality of life is that it’s very hard to satisfy people while they are alive.

What ought to be done at the end of the day for each day is just to stay focused, look straight ahead, and just do what is right to the best of one’s ability.

Keep up the good work, Mr. Agulto. You are on the right track.

Martin M. Sakisat

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

2.7 tons of marine debris collected in ICC

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly three tons of trash was collected in the CNMI during its participation in the International Coastal Cleanup this year.

According to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, over 2.7 tons of trash was collected on Saipan, Tinian

and Rota.

"I'd like to express huge gratitude to all those volunteers that came out and assisted in the International Coastal Cleanup," BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said.

Of the total, 3,380 lbs of trash were collected on Saipan, 1,200 lbs on Tinian and 978 lbs on Rota.

Most of the collected ma-

rine debris were cigarette butts, fishing lines, plastic bottles and caps, Styrofoam and glass pieces, plastic bags, and cans. However, there were also some that were of concern such as an unexploded ordnance found at Laolao Bay and three finless juvenile sharks at 13 Fishermen's Monument.

BECQ said the data collected

during the cleanups helps natural resource agencies identify what type of debris is out there and where it comes from. The data becomes valuable for educating the public about the problem of marine debris, and as a result can help influence public policy on waste management.

The cleanup was organized in partnership with the MINA Tasi

Watch Rangers. The CNMI annually participates in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, which is now on its 30th year.

Tinian and Rota earlier kicked off the event in the Commonwealth with their cleanup happening on Sept. 18. Saipan wrapped up the event last Saturday in time for America's Re-

cycles Day.

"We try to do this every year and we were supposed to do this back in September but, of course, because of Soudelor, things got pushed back. But we got participants from both public and private, we had several schools that participated, faith-based groups, NGOs, so it's quite encouraging," Rabauliman said.

A total of over 1,300 participants joined in the cleanup: 600 on Saipan, 578 on Rota, and 200 on Tinian.

'Hospital doing its best for CMS accreditation'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's lone public hospital continues to work on the areas that it needs to work on to be accredited by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

"We continue to audit and conduct mock surveys. We're planning to do additional mock surveys next month to see how we are doing with the entire conditions of participations with CMS," said Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hospital administrator Jesse Tudela.

Tudela said they do corrective actions but are challenged

when it's on the technical matters such as the facility itself because that requires additional resources and funding.

"We audit and we do corrective actions if we find ongoing deficiencies but it's really hard if it is coming from the technical side," Tudela said. "But besides that, we're continuously improving on our practice and coming out with new policies to guide out staff to ensure compliance."

He noted that everyone in the hospital is working together to be able to get the accreditation.

"I'm pretty sure that all of our stakeholders, all of our staff, want to get that accreditation so

it will be a joint effort from everyone," Tudela said.

He said they will just have to do their best once the CMS team arrives on island to do a resurvey.

"It's unannounced; they will come anytime. Every day we put on our best hat and ensure that we're doing everything that's required of us for getting CMS accreditation," Tudela said. "When they come, we'll put our best foot forward and hope for the best."

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that a CMS visit in September 2013 identified 13 deficiencies at the hospital. In January 2014, CMS found that only four

citations were considered satisfied and that nine other deficiencies remain unresolved.

Based on their September 2014 survey, CMS identified non-compliance with seven hospital Conditions of Participation or COPs.

In its survey results that were released earlier this year, CMS found that CHC did not meet conditions on medical staff appointments and accountability. CMS also found that CHC did not meet conditions on patients' personal privacy, care in a safe setting, and restraint or seclusion.

The hospital was also cited for not meeting conditions on periodic appraisals, credentialing,

and its bylaws. For the nursing services, CMS found that it did not meet conditions on registered nurse supervision of nursing services. Medical records also did not meet conditions for form and retention and security.

Other areas cited were verbal orders authenticated based on law, delivery of medical prescriptions, directory of dietary services, physical environment, emergency gas and water; facilities, supplies, equipment, and maintenance; ventilation, light, and temperature controls; infection control, discharge planning, and outpatient post-anesthesia evaluation.

'Cash for College' workshop postponed to Nov. 28

Due to the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm In-Fa, the Cash for College event scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015, has been postponed to Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015.

The free workshop, which aims to assist Northern Marianas College students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities, will be held at the at the As Terlaje campus in Building A. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2013 and 2014, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

The free workshop is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. (NMC)

November is Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

In partnership with the Office of the Mayor's animal shelter program, Saipan Cares for Animals has made November Adopt-a-Senior Pet Month for several senior dogs at the shelter that are looking for homes.

In conjunction with the celebration, representatives of Humane Society International arrived this week and will be conducting spay and neutering services for shelter dogs from Wednesday to Saturday.

According to Saipan Cares for Animals president Jason Hudy, if you have a dog that's been adopted from the shelter and you want them spayed or neutered, you may contact Saipan Cares for Animals on their Facebook page.

"This is the first of many times [the Humane Society has come], and we don't know how many they will get done this time... but we will try to get dogs that have been adopted from the shelter sterilized on a first come, first served basis. We are asking a small \$25 fee to help defray the costs of getting this team to Saipan," he said.

At the moment, the shelter is unable to provide its own spay or neutering services.

Fortunately, Humane Society International has been working with the Saipan Mayor's Office in getting Saipan's dog population under control.

The goal, according to Hudy, is to reach 70 percent sterilization, which the Humane Society hopes to attain in the next five years.

"At the shelter, since we started Saipan Cares for Animals in May, we've already seen tremendous



DAISY DEMAPAN

Caramel is a 1-year-old female who is energetic and has a friendly temperament. She loves walking.



DAISY DEMAPAN

Maddie is a 1-year-old female who can walk on a leash and is very sociable.



DAISY DEMAPAN

Charlie, a male, is a strong senior from Dandan, who is friendly and loves going for walks.

progress. We've seen a proven system of dogs being adopted. In the last three months, there has been tremendous improvement in the vaccination and medication that the dogs received. Now, before dogs leave the shelter they are being vaccinated. And now, just today, the Humane Society International is back on Saipan to help us set up a system of spay and neutering the shelter dogs, so when they leave the shelter they are healthy and won't be producing more unwanted dogs. Hopefully over the next year we will see tremendous advancement in our ability to control the dog population here. It is a long process to be sure, and we are just in the early stages of it..." he said.

He also shared that in the last six months the shelter relied heavily on euthanasia for many dogs who were severely ill or aggressive. For people whose pets have been impounded, a 120-hour hold period still occurs but then the pet is put up for adoption, depending on its health condition.

The shelter now has just over 30 dogs that are healthy, sociable, and in need of a home.

"The Mayor's Office has waived adoption fees [for the month], and the registration fee is only \$10, so for 10 bucks you can provide a great animal a wonderful home, an animal that will give you countless hours of happiness as well," Hudy said.

Message "Saipan Cares for Animals" on Facebook to set up a time to visit the shelter, which is located in Lower Base down the road from Saipan Ice and Water Sparkle Clean.

The shelter requires a questionnaire to be filled out—as a background precaution—before the release of any pet. Interested pet owners are welcome to schedule a meeting by calling 789-9464.



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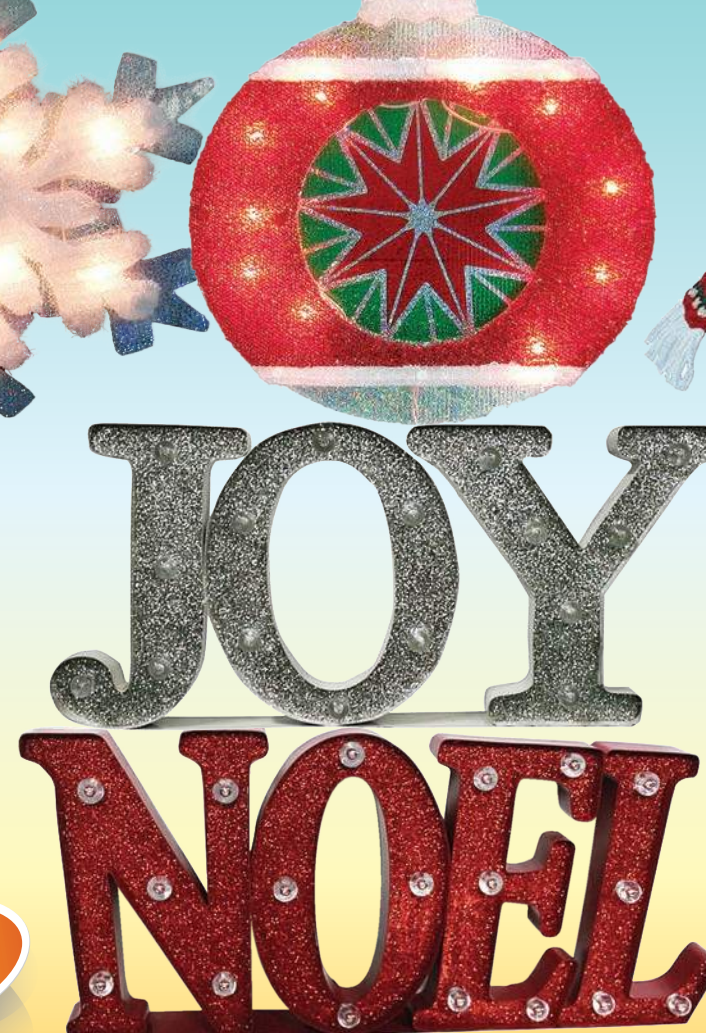


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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Pacific Northwest residents donate relief goods

Pacific Northwest residents recently extended assistance to Typhoon Soudelor victims by donating a 40-foot container of relief goods and other much needed supplies to Saipan.

The donations were turned over to the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation for distribution to the typhoon victims.

The 40-foot container was filled with food, clothes, shoes, baby wipes, beddings, water, school supplies, personal hygiene products, tents, batteries, boxes of hydropacks, and some medical supplies.

The container was shipped for free to Saipan, courtesy of CTSI Logistics, Matson Navigation Inc., and Cargo Express.

“EVM is very honored to receive the goods for distribution on their behalf. We are touched and blessed by their utmost generosity. ...EVM also expresses its gratitude to the generous shipping and logistics companies, as well as those hard working volunteers who

showed up and helped to take down all those goods from the container,” the foundation said in a statement.

Among the groups that helped out were Agape Christian School, John Blanco and his football team, SM Mart Saipan, DMS National Honor Society, Pacific Trading Co. Ltd., Northern Mari-

anas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Life In The Son members, and Jesse Tudela.

Sons of Saipan in Guam also donated 100 futons, while Rota residents donated clothes and shoes.

According to the Empty Vessel Foundation, this is the second container that they have received

for typhoon relief efforts. Last September, EVM received the first 40-foot container from residents of Hawaii (Aloha Saipan). It contained clothing, shoes, bedding, mattresses, water, medical equipment, tents, tarps, batteries, and food, which were all distributed to the affected victims.

EVM partners who helped distribute these much needed supplies and goods were Talaabwogh Stars, CORE, and CNMI Women Association.

For more information about the foundation, call 235-2340 or email emptyvesselministry@gmail.com. (EVMF)

Free Bible program open to the public

The public is invited to attend a one-day program of Bible instruction to be held on Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. Admission is free and no collections will be taken. The program will begin at 9:40am and end at 4pm.

More than 300 are expected to be in attendance for this event, which is hosted by Jehovah's Witnesses. The assembly theme is “Imitate Their Faith,” a quotation found in the Bible at Hebrews 3:7. Throughout the day there will be talks, interviews, and demonstrations to show how people today can benefit by following the example of faithful men and women that we read about in the Bible.

For instance, scheduled for 10:15am is a talk titled, “Imitate the Endurance of the Prophets.” Later, at 2pm there will be a part especially for younger ones in attendance, “Youths: Become an Example to the Faithful Ones.” That will be followed by information that should interest female members of the audience, “Imitate Holy Women of the Past.”

Everyone is invited to attend this encouraging program. The entire program will be presented in English and interpreted into ASL, with certain portions interpreted into Chinese.

Regular meetings for worship are held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Saipan. To get there, take Middle Road and then turn onto the road next to Bali Fashion. Go to the end of the road to find the Kingdom Hall on the left. Several different language meetings are held on Sundays. English is at 10am and 1pm. Tagalog is at 4pm. Korean is at 10am. Chinese and ASL are at 1pm. There are also meetings every Sunday on Tinian and Rota at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on those islands. The public is always welcome and no collections are ever taken. There are over 8 million Witnesses worldwide. For more information about Jehovah's Witnesses, visit www.jw.org. (PR)

SYP highlights anti-domestic violence coalition

In honor of last month's proclamation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Saipan Young Professionals featured the NMI Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence organization at their Inspirational Speakers Night.

Program manager Angelyn Nimwes shared general information about the coalition, including a history of its formation in 2006. Nimwes stated that the coalition was incorporated in response to Public Law 14-09, or Rosalia's Law. Passed in 2006, the law criminalizes domestic violence. Since then, the coalition has provided various services in the realm of domestic and sexual violence including outreach and education, community awareness, advocacy and policy change, to name a few. Although the coalition does not provide direct services, they do provide referrals to their partner agencies, including Karidat Social Services, the Ayuda Network, and the Community Guidance Center.

With the recurring number

of domestic and sexual violence cases in the CNMI, Nimwes highlighted the need for organizations, including the Saipan Young Professionals, to be advocates and to work with them to “make a difference.” She said the coalition is working on implementing more programs to further assist the victims of these crimes.

In their group discussion, SYP member and public school teacher Tara White pointed out the importance of doing outreach to students at younger grade levels. Nimwes agreed that the coalition will take a proactive step toward educating students of all grade levels. She said it is their hope to break the cycle of students “normalizing”

domestic and sexual violence behaviors.

“Violence has a ripple effect. It not only affects the families of the victims, it affects the entire community,” she said.

In addition to an open discussion, Nimwes touched on the various events that the coalition organizes throughout the year, including the most recent “Day

of Unity” in October.

“We hope that as young professionals, your organization can help us further advocate for the coalition. We can't do it alone. Even with the help of our legislative leaders and community members, it takes a collective effort,” she told SYP members.

SYP chair Mable Ayuyu thanked Nimwes and the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for educating the island and for sharing their knowledge.

“We're grateful for the coalition and their partner agencies for the work they do for our island community. We hope to participate in their future events and partner with them to bring more awareness throughout the CNMI,” said Ayuyu.

The Saipan Young Professionals is a Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. For more information about the committee, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/syp96950?fref=ts> or you may call the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office at 234-7150. (SCC)



Members of the Saipan Young Professionals present NMI Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence program manager Angelyn Nimwes with a certificate of appreciation for taking part in the organization's Inspirational Speakers Night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Mount Carmel School students pose with their teacher coaches after successfully participating in the Primary Grade Forensics Competition meet on Nov. 8 at Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PGFC Knights rock Nov. 8 meet

Congratulations to the following Knights who competed in the Primary Grade Forensics Competition meet on Nov. 8 at Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School:

GRADES K - 2

■ Lance Jericho Javier, 4th Place, Readers Forum

■ Asa Vanessa Backe - 5th Place, Readers Forum

■ Leighton Palacios - 2nd Place, Impromptu

■ Oscar Bien Buenaflor - 4th Place, Impromptu

■ Mikaehla Paige Mendoza - 2nd Place, Readers Forum

■ Oscar Bien Buenaflor

- 4th Place, Readers Forum Masters

■ Jessiana Tenorio - 5th Place Readers Forum Masters

GRADES 3 - 5

■ Aryana Taimanao - 1st Place, Readers Forum

■ Elisha Lacap - 4th Place, Readers Forum

■ Kyla Monique Cabrera - 4th Place, Readers Forum

■ Mathew Sablan - 5th

Place, Readers Forum

■ Elisha Lacap - 2nd Place, Impromptu A

■ Brissa Hunter - 2nd Place, Impromptu A

■ Angelou Buensalido - 3rd Place, Impromptu A

■ Carlo Crisdeo - 5th Place, Impromptu A

■ Brent Ortizo - 1st Place, Readers Forum Masters

■ Keehara Baldazo - 1st Place, Readers Forum Masters

■ Brissa Hunter - 2nd Place, Readers Forum Masters

■ Kyla Monique Cabrera and Kina Dela Cruz - 2nd Place, Duo Interpretation

■ Lynzey Green - 2nd Place, Humorous Interpretation

Much thanks also to their teacher coaches: Zita Sablan, Shirley Duenas, Marilyn Divino, He Jin Lee, and Ariadne Snodgrass. (MCS)

Business

More Thanksgiving travelers; don't get stuck at the airport

NEW YORK (AP)—A stronger economy and lower gas prices mean Thanksgiving travelers can expect more congested highways this year.

During the long holiday weekend, 46.9 million Americans are expected to go 50 miles or more from home, the highest number since 2007, according to travel agency and car lobbying group AAA. That would be a 0.6 percent increase over last year and the seventh straight year of growth.

While promising for the travel industry, the figure is still 7.3 percent short of the 50.6 million high point reached in 2007, just before the recession.

Like on every other holiday, the overwhelming majority of travelers—almost 90 percent—will be driving. And they will be paying much less at the pump.

AAA says the average retail price for gasoline is now \$2.15 per gallon, 74 cents cheaper than the same time last year. With the



In this Nov. 25, 2015 file photo, travelers check in their luggage as they prepare to travel at Miami International Airport in Miami.

average car getting 18.5 miles per gallon, that means a family driving 300 miles will save \$12 in fuel this holiday.

Airlines for America, the lobbying group for several major airlines, forecasts 25.3 million passengers will fly on U.S. airlines, up 3 percent from last year. (AAA's forecast shows fewer numbers of fliers because

it looks at a five-day period while the airline group looks at the 12 days surrounding Thanksgiving.)

Airfare is basically flat compared to last year, with a mere 0.3 percent or 69 cent average increase, according to the Airlines Reporting Corp., which processes ticket transactions for airlines and travel agencies.

Mark Zuckerberg on philanthropy: Move slow and build things

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—After making their fortunes from new software or social networks, some Silicon Valley entrepreneurs have vowed to apply their skills to “hacking” philanthropy and “disrupting” old models for funding charity.

Not so Facebook CEO and co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, who isn't afraid to take a more conventional approach to giving.

Local officials will gather in San Francisco this weekend to dedicate a new public hospital building, furnished and equipped in part by a \$75 million gift from Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan, a pediatrician who did medical training at the old San Francisco General Hospital—now to be known as the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

The 31-year-old social media mogul, worth an estimated \$46 billion, made waves with his earlier forays in philanthropy—in particular, a controversial \$100 million donation to public schools in Newark, New Jersey. This time, though, Zuckerberg and Chan made a comparatively traditional donation that funded the purchase of cutting-edge equipment for treating some of San Francisco's poorest residents. It's not exactly “Move fast and break things,” Facebook's early slogan.

“I'd say that we're trying to help people” rather than disrupt philanthropy, Zuckerberg said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press. “Just like anything else you want to do well, investing in social-good projects takes practice,” he added. “This

is the reason why we're starting when we're young.”

The couple has transferred billions of dollars in Facebook stock to a nonprofit community foundation that helps them dole out the funds. Zuckerberg said the gift to the San Francisco hospital, which serves many poor and minority patients, meets the couple's goals of “unlocking human potential” and “promoting equality.”

But it's also clear that the donation stems partly from personal reasons, particularly for Chan, 30. The hospital “has been a critical part of my development as a person and as a physician,” she said in an interview, explaining that she chose to do her residency there because it offers special training in treating underprivileged children and families.

Pennsylvania judges propose record \$50M fine against Uber

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Judges for the Pennsylvania agency that regulates buses and taxis recommended on Tuesday a record \$50 million fine against ride-sharing company Uber for operating in the state without approval.

Two administrative law judges issued the decision, subject to approval by the Public Utility Commission, to punish Uber Technologies Inc. for rides by its subsidiaries from February 2014 until it received experimental authority six months later.

The judges rejected Uber's argument that it did not run afoul of commission rules because it's a software company whose services aren't necessarily available to the public at large.

“Uber took a more active role in providing transportation service than simply providing the Uber app for people with cars to use to provide rides for people who need transportation—it was not a disinterested invisible entity in the background,” wrote judges Mary Long and Jeffrey Watson.

Uber spokesman Taylor Bennett said the San Francisco-based company was disappointed and hoped to come to a “reasonable resolution” after being unable to settle with the commission.

After a 30-day period to allow both sides to respond, the Public Utility Commission will consider the recommendation. If approved, it would be the largest fine ever imposed by

the agency.

In summarizing the company's arguments, the judges said Uber claimed its conduct was not serious because it provides needed transportation alternatives, it believed a broker license held by a subsidiary was adequate and because the commission's investigation and enforcement arm did not prove any harm occurred.

But the judges found that the company arranged a “large number” of trips—the precise figure was not listed—before a subsidiary obtained a two-year, emergency authorization by the state. Uber drivers had at least nine accidents during that period that could lead to an insurance claim, a company official told the judges.

Nation

Republicans rush to shut borders to Syrian refugees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans urged an immediate closure of America's borders to Syrian refugees Tuesday, drawing angry denunciations from President Barack Obama and other Democrats and igniting an emotional debate about U.S. values in the wake of the deadly Paris terror attacks.

“Pause” was the word used by both new House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, urging at least a temporary halt in the resettlement of Syrians and disputing Obama administration claims that the small numbers making their way here so far are being thoroughly investigated.

Obama, speaking Wednesday morning in the Philippines, deemed their words offensive and insisted, “It needs to stop.”

“Apparently they're scared of widows and orphans coming into the United States of

States that plan to accept Syrian refugees

Here's a look at where state governors stand, and the number of Syrian refugees who have arrived in each state since Jan. 1, according to the U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center:



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

America,” Obama said.

The administration showed no sign of backing off its plans to bring an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees to the U.S. and mounted a hasty defense of its vetting process, which Attorney General Loretta Lynch

assured Congress is “robust.”

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who briefed House members Tuesday night, said, “It's important to me that the vetting that is conducted is thorough, it's careful.”

Paris attacks leave parents, schools with tough questions

BOSTON (AP)—The deadly attacks in France left schools and parents around the world grappling with what to say to children, and how to say it.

When classes resumed this week, many teachers struggled to decide whether to discuss what happened in Paris. Parents wondered whether to talk about the violence or how to explain it. From country to country, the topic was tackled in different, and similar, ways.

Many schools held moments of silence to honor the hundreds of people who were killed or injured while out simply enjoying a Friday evening. Some held open discussions about terrorism and the Paris attacks. Teachers of younger students often tried to shield them from the topic.

At Miami's George Washington Carver Middle School, teacher Sindy Garcia started her eighth-grade social studies class with a moment of silence and then showed a video designed to teach students about the attacks. During a discussion afterward, some in the class asked what ISIS stands for and why the group wanted to attack France. The Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for the attacks.

“I tried to give them just enough facts that they're informed but not enough to overwhelm them,” said Garcia, the school's department head for social studies. “They'll know the number of deaths they'll know the number of injured, but I won't show more than that.”

At the Lycée Français de

New York, students were called into assemblies by grade to discuss the news and their reactions.

“We took a really careful approach,” said Elisabeth King, a spokeswoman for the French-language school in Manhattan. “It's really about listening and alleviating fear.”

In Paris, schools reopened Monday with normal routines. In one public school, a teacher drew a classroom of 7-year-old children to a corner, had them sit close together on the floor and explained there were attackers at a stadium. The teacher said there were more and more police every minute to protect people.

A French newspaper, Libération, published a special children's edition Monday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Lawyer: Driver helpless to stop runaway San Francisco bus

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The driver of an out-of-control tourist bus that injured 20 people when it careened through a popular downtown San Francisco shopping district said through a lawyer that he was powerless to stop the runaway vehicle. Lawyer Robert Cartwright represents driver Kenneth Malvar, who remained hospitalized Tuesday with serious injuries after the Friday afternoon accident. Cartwright said his client recounted a harrowing tale of losing control of the bus and

being powerless to stop it as it continued to pick up speed. Malvar said he heard a small explosion underneath the bus before the trouble began. The San Francisco Chronicle was the first to report the 52-year-old Malvar's account of the accident.

Official: Minneapolis police shooting vids won't be released

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—State investigators looking into the fatal shooting of a black Minneapolis man by police during a scuffle have several partial videos of the incident but won't release them at this time, despite demands

from protesters, an official said Tuesday. Jamar O'Neal Clark, 24, died Monday evening, a day after he was shot by police during an early morning dispute, the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension said Tuesday. Some witnesses said Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. Police initially said he was not handcuffed, but authorities later said handcuffs were at the scene and they were trying to determine whether Clark was restrained. His death sparked protests including one Monday night in which hundreds of people blocked traffic on an interstate highway, leading to 42 arrests.

Asia

Talks under way for UN rights chief to visit North Korea

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea and the United Nations both confirmed Tuesday that discussions are under way for what would be the first visit to the reclusive north Asian country by a U.N. human rights chief.

North Korea's rights record has been called abysmal and led to a recommendation that the country be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity. The U.N. General Assembly is expected to vote later this week on a resolution sponsored by the European Union and Japan that would condemn North Korea's rights violations and again encourage the U.N. Security Council to refer the country to the war crimes tribunal.

North Korean Ambassador-at-large Ri Hung Sik told a news conference Tuesday that the government invited High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Raad al-Hussein to Pyongyang to follow up on his office's interest in "technical cooperation." He said contacts were under way on the details and timing of the visit.

Zeid's spokesman, Andre-Michel Essoungou, says that in September the high commissioner for human rights welcomed an invitation from North Korea's foreign minister to visit the country. He said discussions were continuing to prepare the ground work for a possible visit to engage North Korea on a "human rights dialogue."

Essoungou said it would

be a first by a U.N. human rights chief.

Ri claimed allegations that North Korea commits human rights abuses are based on "all sorts of false and distorted data" from defectors and criminal fugitives, and the result of a "U.S. hostile policy" intended to bring down the government using "strong arm military pressure" and false attacks on its human rights record.

The resolution was expected to be voted on this week.

Despite sanctions, he said the government is trying to improve living standards so people lead better lives, and he pointed to free housing, health and education in the country and special help for children and the elderly.

4 killed in wildfires raging across Australia's southwest

SYDNEY (AP)—Wildfires raging across southwest Australia killed four people, officials said Wednesday, as a blistering heat wave swept through the country.

The bodies of four people were found in a rural area north of the town of Esperance, where several fires have been burning since they were sparked by lightning on Sunday, Western Australia police said. Disaster victim identification officers were flying to the small towns of Salmon Gums and Grass Patch, where the bodies were discovered.

The victims were believed to be two men and two women, and officials were trying to confirm reports that the bodies were found in two vehicles, said Western Australia Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Wayne Gregson. It was

not known if they burned to death in the fire, or whether they died in a crash as they tried to flee, he said.

There were no other reports of injuries or missing people, Gregson said. Three buildings were destroyed.

Hundreds of residents have been evacuated and schools were closed as firefighters struggled to contain the blazes, which have been fanned by days of fierce winds and temperatures soaring above 40 degrees Celsius (more than 100 Fahrenheit).

Conditions had improved by Wednesday, with the hot, dry air moving east and out of the region. The temperature was expected to reach just 23 Celsius (73 Fahrenheit) on Wednesday.

The Salmon Gums blaze has burned through 3,000 square

kilometers (1,100 square miles) of land, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services said. The area is predominantly agricultural, and is known for its wheat crops.

Mic Fels, a volunteer firefighter and farmer who lives in the Esperance region, said his wife and three children fled their home on Tuesday along with many of his neighbors at the urging of officials. Fels, who has spent 25 years growing wheat, barley and canola at his farm, stayed behind along with a few other residents to try and protect their homes from the advancing blaze. The fast-moving fire came within 25 kilometers (15 miles) of their neighborhood before a sudden change in wind direction sent it north, toward Salmon Gums.

danan town in Sulu, an impoverished province 950 kilometers (590 miles) south of Manila where Abu Sayyaf gunmen are believed to be holding other foreign and Filipino hostages. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with reporters. The officials said Then was abducted with a compatriot, Thien Nyuk Fun, in May in Malaysia's Sabah state and taken by boat to Sulu. Thien was freed earlier this month after a ransom was reportedly paid.

Bangkok's botched half-marathon offers T-shirt apology

BANGKOK (AP)—They ran an extra 4 miles on their half-marathon. And for their extra pain, they're getting a T-shirt. Organizers offered runners commemorative T-shirts Tuesday as part of an apology for inadvertently extending the weekend Standard Chartered Bangkok Half-Marathon by almost 7 kilometers (4 miles). The error by race officials along the route meant participants in Sunday's race ran 27.6 kilometers (17 miles), rather than the usual 21 kilometers (13 miles). Many runners had clocked the race on GPS watches and posted their bewilderment and anger afterward on social media. Some 6,000 runners took part in the race and everyone—even those who didn't finish—will get a special jersey to wear like a badge of pride, said Songkram Kraison, vice president of the Jogging Association of Thailand, one of the event's two organizers.

World

French hunt 2nd fugitive, launch new airstrikes on IS

PARIS (AP)—French police hunted Tuesday for a second terrorist believed to have escaped after the bomb and gun massacres in Paris, while a U.S. official revealed that the suspected mastermind was part of an Islamic State cell that American intelligence agencies had been tracking for months.

Meanwhile, France and Russia unleashed a new wave of airstrikes against IS targets in Syria, while fears of further terror attacks deepened in Paris and beyond. The Eiffel Tower closed to the public just a day after it had reopened and a soccer match between Germany and the Netherlands was canceled due to a bomb threat just 90 minutes before kickoff.

Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for the Friday the 13th attacks that targeted France's national soccer stadium, a packed concert hall and popular restaurants and cafes in one of Paris' trendiest neighborhoods, killing 129 people and wounding more than 350.

French authorities had pre-



viously said that at least eight people were directly involved in the bloodshed Friday: seven who died in the attacks and one who got away and slipped across the border to Belgium. However, there have been gaps in officials' public statements, which have never fully disclosed how many attackers took part in the deadly rampage.

On Tuesday, officials disclosed to The Associated Press that they now believe at least one more attacker was involved than was previously known, and they were working to identify

Putin vows to hunt down, punish those who bombed Russian jet

MOSCOW (AP)—A somber President Vladimir Putin vowed to hunt down and punish those responsible for a bomb that brought down a Russian passenger jet last month, "wherever they are hiding." Intensified Russian airstrikes Tuesday hit the Islamic State group's stronghold in Syria that also is being pounded by the French military.

Russia's FSB security service confirmed for the first time that a homemade bomb caused the Oct. 31 crash of the Metrojet Airbus 321-200 in Egypt's Sinai Desert and killed all 224 people aboard in what it called "a terrorist act." The Islamic state had already claimed responsibility, saying it was punishing

Moscow for its air campaign in Syria.

With Russia striking IS targets in reprisal for the Metrojet downing, France hitting militants in response to the attacks on civilians in Paris last week and the ongoing U.S.-led coalition bombings, the extremists were facing a stepped-up assault from at least three military powers. But the Kremlin said it was too soon to call it a de facto alliance.

Putin heard the report on the Metrojet bombing at a late-night meeting of his security advisers in the Kremlin that was shown on national television. He and his advisers stood for moment of silence for those who died on the plane, mostly Russian va-

and track down that suspect. Three officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to provide details about the ongoing investigation.

A new surveillance video obtained by the AP indicated that a team of three attackers carried out the shootings at one of the cafes. The video was among evidence authorities used in concluding that at least one other attacker was at large, the French officials indicated.

The brief clip shot from a distance shows two black-clad gunmen with automatic weapons calmly firing on the bar then returning toward a waiting car, whose driver was maneuvering behind them. Authorities believe that car is the same black Spanish-made SEAT vehicle that was found abandoned Saturday with three Kalashnikovs inside. In the footage, as the gunmen fire their rifles, patrons can be seen falling down on the pavement as others dashed or crawled away. The encounter lasted only seconds.

cationers flying from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to St. Petersburg.

An unusually subdued Putin called it "one of the bloodiest crimes," and promised retribution for "the murder of our people in Sinai."

"We will not wipe away the tears from our souls and our hearts. This will stay with us forever," he said.

The FSB offered a \$50 million reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible, and Putin said Russia would be relentless in its pursuit.

"We're going to look for them everywhere wherever they are hiding. We will find them in any place on Earth and punish them," he said.

IS militants dig in, anticipating assault on Syria's Raqqa

BEIRUT (AP)—Islamic State militants are stiffening their defenses for a possible assault on their de facto capital Raqqa as international airstrikes intensify on the Syrian city in retaliation for the Paris attacks. The fighters are hiding in civilian neighborhoods and preventing anyone from fleeing, activists said.

Activists from Raqqa say the northern Syrian city's estimated 350,000 residents are gripped by fear, rattled by powerful Russian and French airstrikes that shake the city daily and worried they would be trapped with nowhere to go amid signs of

a looming ground invasion by U.S.-allied Kurdish and Arab forces in Syria.

For months, those forces have been advancing gradually toward Raqqa with backing from American-led airstrikes, capturing IS-held towns to the north and east of the city. After IS claimed responsibility for Friday's carnage in Paris that killed at least 129 people, there are calls for even stronger action in Syria.

Iraqi intelligence officials this week told The Associated Press that the operation was planned in Raqqa, where the attackers were trained specifically for this operation with the

intention of sending them to France. The attacks came soon after IS claimed the downing of a Russian plane in Egypt and deadly suicide bombings in Lebanon and Turkey.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday suggested Raqqa would be the new focus.

"My sense is that everybody understands that with Lebanon's attacks, with what's happened in Egypt, with Ankara, Turkey, with the attacks now in Paris, we have to step up our efforts to hit them at the core where they're planning these things," he said after his meeting with French President Francois Hollande Tuesday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam wants good relations with China, defends sovereignty

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung says the communist country will do its best to develop good relations with China, but at the same time will defend its sovereignty in the disputed South China Sea. In a televised testimony before the National Assembly on Wednesday, Dung called for strengthening of the country's national defense and security, and for international support for national construction and defense. Vietnam and China along with several other countries are locked in territorial disputes in the South China Sea, where recent Chinese land reclamation projects have raised serious concerns. Relations between the two communist neighbors plunged to their lowest point in years following the parking of a Chinese giant oil rig near the Paracels islands last year.

Philippines verifying reported beheading of Malaysian

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two Philippine military officials say authorities are verifying reports that Abu Sayyaf militants have beheaded a Malaysian hostage in the southern Philippines after a large ransom demand was not paid. The officials said the militants killed Bernard Then Ted Fen on Tuesday in their jungle camp in In-

Environment

In Asia, Obama says climate action will be good for business

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Weeks away from a deadline, President Barack Obama sought to build momentum Wednesday for a potentially legacy-bur-nishing global climate change agreement by arguing that bold climate action will be a boon for businesses in Asia and around the world.

At a meeting of chief executives in this Southeast Asian capital, Obama urged business leaders to reduce emissions in their operations and use their sway to pressure governments to sign on to the international pact. Obama and dozens of other leaders are slated to convene in Paris at the end of the month to finalize the carbon-cutting deal.

“Your businesses can do right by your bottom lines and by our planet and future generations,” Obama said. “The old rules that said we can’t grow our economy and protect our economy the same time—those are outdated.”

The CEOs gathered on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, an annual forum for 21 member nations typically used to hash out the region’s overlapping economic interests.

This year security issues seeped onto the agenda. In the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris, talk of a response and containing the spread of Islamic radicalism filled both the formal meetings and hall-way chatter during Obama’s week of summit that began Sunday in Turkey.

Obama told reporters Wednesday that an informal



AP
U.S. President Barack Obama gestures during a dialogue at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) CEO summit in Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015.

top priority as his term in office winds down. With no hope for passing legislation through Congress, Obama has shifted to international lobbying.

The White House points to some success. On his last trip through Asia, Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping issued in a joint declaration that set a 2030 deadline for carbon emissions to stop rising in China. The deal seemed to mark a shift in China’s approach to carbon reduction, and a diplomatic win for the president.

Joining Obama on stage were Jack Ma, chairman of the Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba, and Aisa Mijeno, whose startup called Salt sells low-cost lamps run on salt water.

Although Obama said no nation is immune to climate change’s consequences, he added that the Asia-Pacific region is particularly affected because of its low-lying islands. He said without action to curb emissions, businesses will make less money amid economic disruptions and dampened agricultural production.

conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Turkey covered the possibility of deeper coordination with Russia in the military campaign against the Islamic State group. The discussion marked a slight shift in approach after weeks of condemning Russia’s bombing campaign in Syria as chiefly aimed at propping up Syrian President Bashar Assad.

“If, in fact, he shifts his focus and the focus of his military

to what is the principal threat, which is ISIL, then that is something that we very much want to see,” Obama said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

“And we will be in discussions with Moscow and Mr. Putin to see if that will continue.”

But while Obama privately discusses ways of ramping up

pressure on the Islamic State group, he came ready to use his public spotlight to zero in on the landmark climate deal. The president has made the issue a

Can the world’s coral be saved?

By DAVID HELVARG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Two Steps is a perfect snorkeling spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you’re guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles shoaling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

But if you happened to visit last month, you would have found about 30 percent of the corals bleached wedding-cake white.

It’s a sure sign that the ocean is heating up. Overly warm water causes living coral polyps to expel the photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae, that give them their varied colors and about 70 percent of their nutrients. If the bleaching lasts too long, the corals starve to death.

All of Hawaii’s coral reefs are bleaching this year, a “really serious problem,” says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010). Ninety-five percent of U.S. corals, which are mostly concentrated off the coasts of Hawaii and Florida, are likely to be exposed to conditions that can cause bleaching.

Tropical coral reefs cover

less than 1 percent of the ocean, but they are home and nursery to 25 percent of all marine species; billions of fish, mollusks and other creatures rely on reefs for their food and shelter. Their beauty generates tourism dollars, and they act as barriers providing storm protection for millions of coastal residents.

Unfortunately, they are especially fragile in the face of

pollution, ocean acidification, overfishing and climate change. Most are not expected to survive this century.

There is some hope. Emerging science suggests coral reefs that are fully protected from pollution and overfishing are more resilient to the impact of climate change. That’s one reason a coalition of Hawaii-based groups is calling for an emergency moratorium on the collection of aquarium-trade fish off their reefs.

Climate activists still want to march in Paris despite attacks

By KARL RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS (AP)—Environmental activists said Monday that they want to go ahead with plans to march in Paris before the U.N. climate summit later this month, despite the attacks in the French capital.

A coalition of activist groups including Avaaz, Greenpeace and 350.org said that they intend to “hold all the mobilizations currently planned,” including a march set for Nov. 29, the day before the conference begins.

Demonstrations have been banned in France after a state of emergency was declared following the attacks that killed 129 people on Friday.

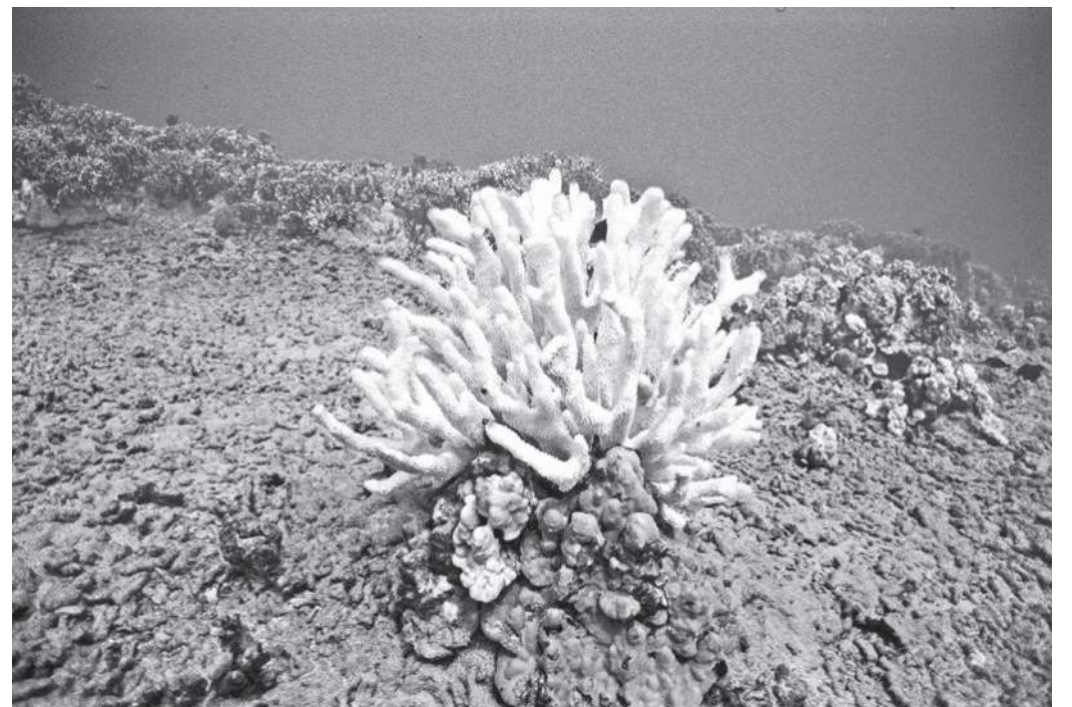
The environmental groups were set to meet French authorities on Tuesday to discuss how to move forward. The

planned route of the march runs right through some of the areas that were attacked.

“The tragedy in Paris has only strengthened our resolve,” said Nicolas Haeringer of 350.org. “We can think of few better responses to violence and terror than this movement’s push for peace and hope.”

Organizers have been preparing for the march for months, hoping for tens of thousands of people to take part.

The conference itself, at which countries are supposed to adopt a new global agreement to fight climate change, is scheduled to go ahead as planned. On Monday, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said no world leader has asked for the conference to be delayed, but some side events might be canceled.



MCT
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history.

Life & Style

Cate Blanchett honored at Museum of Modern Art

NEW YORK (AP)—Cate Blanchett, accepting an honor for her film work, made reference to the recent attacks in Paris and Beirut and said her own efforts “feel very insignificant” in view of what’s happening in the world.

Blanchett was honored Tuesday evening at the Museum of Modern Art’s eighth annual film benefit, which raises funds so that important cinematic works can join the museum’s collection.

“All my efforts do feel very insignificant in view of what’s going on in the world at the moment, the horrific events in Europe and the Middle East,” Blanchett said, “and the thousands of refugees who travel across the borders, and their plight, their peril has become even more precarious and difficult.”

“But,” she added, “and this is going to sound like a massive justification—perhaps it is in the face of what’s going on in the world—sometimes you’re presented with the opportunity of working on projects that perhaps might last and perhaps have something interesting and important to say, and last year was definitely one of



Cate Blanchett, right, and Ralph Fiennes attend the Museum of Modern Art Film Benefit honoring Blanchett at the Museum of Modern Art on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, in New York.

Lucinda,” Ralph Fiennes, who spoke about her “eccentric and beautiful inner landscape.”

“You’re a great artist, Cate,” he said, “Thank you for sharing your gift with us.”

Also speaking—in a videotaped message—was Woody Allen, who directed Blanchett’s Oscar-winning performance in “Blue Jasmine.” The famously reclusive Allen, who often shuns awards ceremonies, quipped that “mercifully, I had a prior engagement.” He noted that before he directed Blanchett, “everyone told me, ‘Hire Cate Blanchett, and she’ll make you look like a genius.’”

In the red carpet interview,

Blanchett said the Museum of Modern Art had been influential on her “as a tourist, as someone lost in the city, as someone searching for a bit of inspiration.”

Director Haynes, also on the red carpet, described Blanchett—who’s earned six Oscar nominations—as an actress who “considers the entire medium, the entire language and style of each film she is in. And she is able to adjust the performance to what that requires.”

Others attending the evening’s event included director Martin Scorsese, and actresses Rooney Mara, Rose Byrne, Sarah Paulson, Jane Krakowski and Diane Kruger.

The previous honorees have been Baz Luhrmann (2008), Tim Burton (2009), Kathryn Bigelow (2010), Pedro Almodovar (2011), Quentin Tarantino (2012), Tilda Swinton (2013), and Alfonso Cuarón (2014).

those years for me.”

She was referring to the two current movies that both are generating serious awards buzz for the two-time Oscar winner. One is “Truth,” in which Blanchett plays the real-life role of CBS producer Mary Mapes, whose career ended following her report about George W.

Bush’s National Guard service. In an earlier red carpet interview, Blanchett said she was “so fascinated to play the role of a real-life person in free fall in a very unexplored part of recent media history which I think it’s quite timely to think about, how we process and digest our news.”

Blanchett’s latest film is “Carol,” adapted from the Patricia Highsmith novel, in which she plays a woman involved in a 1950s lesbian romance. “This movie was a labor of love for everyone involved,” she said.

Among those speaking at the tribute was Blanchett’s co-star in the 1997 movie “Oscar and

‘Secret Agent Man’ songwriter P.F. Sloan dies at 70

LOS ANGELES (AP)—P.F. Sloan, the troubled songwriter behind such classic 1960s tunes as Johnny Rivers’ “Secret Agent Man” and Barry McGuire’s “Eve of Destruction,” has died. He was 70.

Howard Wuelfing, a spokesman for Sloan, said the singer-songwriter died Sunday at his home in Los Angeles after battling pancreatic cancer for several weeks.

Born Philip Gary Schlein in New York City, Sloan signed his first record deal when he was 13 and went on to write songs for such artists as the Turtles, the Grass Roots and the 5th Dimension. He also released several of his own albums and published the memoir “What’s Exactly The Matter With Me?” last year.

His biggest hit was “Eve of Destruction,” which he wrote in a single day in 1964 when he was still in his teens and living at home. The apocalyptic protest anthem came out in 1965, as op-

position grew against the Vietnam War, and caused a sensation. The song topped the charts in August, although its strident lyrics infuriated conservatives, who responded with such records as the Spokesmen’s “The Dawn of Correction.”

Supporters of lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, what in 1971 became the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, embraced the song’s cry that “You’re old enough to kill, but not for voting.”

Sloan was traumatized by his sudden fame and would allege that the song led to his being ostracized from the music industry. He battled depression and dropped out from public life for years, his absence inspiring the Jimmy Webb song “P.F. Sloan” and its lyric “I have been seeking P.F. Sloan / But no one knows where he has gone.”

He began recording and performing again in recent years, including a reunion show with McGuire in early 2015.

Michael Gross, who created ‘Ghostbusters’ logo, dies at 70

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael C. Gross, an artist, illustrator, film producer and personal designer who created two of the most iconic pop culture images of the 20th century—the enduring “Ghostbusters” logo and a dog with a gun to its head for the cover of National Lampoon—has died of cancer at age 70.

Gross died Monday at his Oceanside, California, home, his son, Hollywood cameraman Dylan Goss, told The Associated Press.

The artist, who had survived cancer 30 years before he was given a terminal diagnosis in 2014, said he decided to forgo any life-extending efforts. Instead, he told the AP following the diagnosis, that he would “go down fighting” and launched a darkly comic anti-cancer campaign.

Gross solicited dozens of paintings and drawings from fellow artists and created some of his own, each featuring a hand with a raised middle finger. Underneath them he put the words “Flip Cancer.”

He put the works, done in various media, on display at a gallery exhibition last year. At the time of his death, he was making plans to auction them and donate the money to can-



In this July 16, 2014, file photo, artist Michael Gross, sits on the porch of his ocean front bungalow where he paints and produces other art in his studio in Oceanside, Calif.

cer research.

It was the type of stunt that marked key points in the career of the artist who once described his life’s goal as a quest “to have fun and do new things.”

In 1973, he was art director for National Lampoon when he put a frightened-looking dog on the cover with a gun to its head and the words, “If You Don’t Buy This Magazine, We’ll Kill This Dog.”

“We were just going to do it as a subscription ad in the magazine,” he told the AP. “Then we thought the next one would be, ‘OK, we killed the dog. Now we’re going to kill the cat.

We really mean it.”

When he learned the magazine was planning an entire issue making fun of death, the dog was promoted to the cover. In 2005, the American Society of Magazine Editors rated it one of the 40 greatest covers of all time.

For the first “Ghostbusters” film in 1984, Gross created the drawing of the confused-looking spirit caught in the middle of a red circle with a slash through it. It has come to be a ubiquitous symbol in American pop culture.

The logo placed first, beating out the Chrysler Building,

when the prestigious Pratt Institute held a 125th anniversary celebration in 2012 and surveyed people for their thoughts on the 125 most admired icons created by its alumni and faculty.

Born Oct. 4, 1945, Michael Curtiss Gross grew up in the Hudson River town of Newburgh, New York. As a child he began publishing his own fan magazines and making home movies with friends.

Unable to decide which career to pursue, he attended Pratt, where he majored in fine art and eventually drifted toward illustration. After working for National Lampoon, Esquire and other publications, he became John Lennon’s personal designer. He also worked as a senior designer for the 1968 Olympics.

A prolific artist, his work ranged from animation to comic strips to political cartoons to abstract expressionist paintings. Various examples of it have been displayed in New York’s Museum of Modern Art, Switzerland’s Olympic Museum and other institutions.

On Tuesday, his son recalled a childhood growing up in the company of such figures as Andy Warhol, Truman Capote and John Belushi.



In this Sept. 21, 1965 file photo, folk-rock songwriter P. F. Sloan, left, compares harmonica techniques with discotheque favorite Johnny Rivers. Sloan, the songwriter behind such classic 1960s tunes as Rivers’ “Secret Agent Man” and Barry McGuire’s “Eve of Destruction,” has died. He was 70.

'It's very weird': Kardashian balances book push with drama

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—The awkwardness of Khloe Kardashian promoting a book while she's helping estranged husband Lamar Odom recover from a suspected overdose is not lost on the reality star.

"It is very weird to be selling something or telling everybody

'go buy my book' when there's very serious things happening in my life," Kardashian said in an interview with The Associated Press last week. "Real life happens and nothing is going to stop. Your work can't just stop. So we have to learn to juggle it all and still make time

for yourself."

The book, "Strong Looks Better Naked," is a self-help manual that chronicles her weight loss and her rebound after her marriage to Odom collapsed and left her reeling.

"Everything in the book I am living day by day right now,"

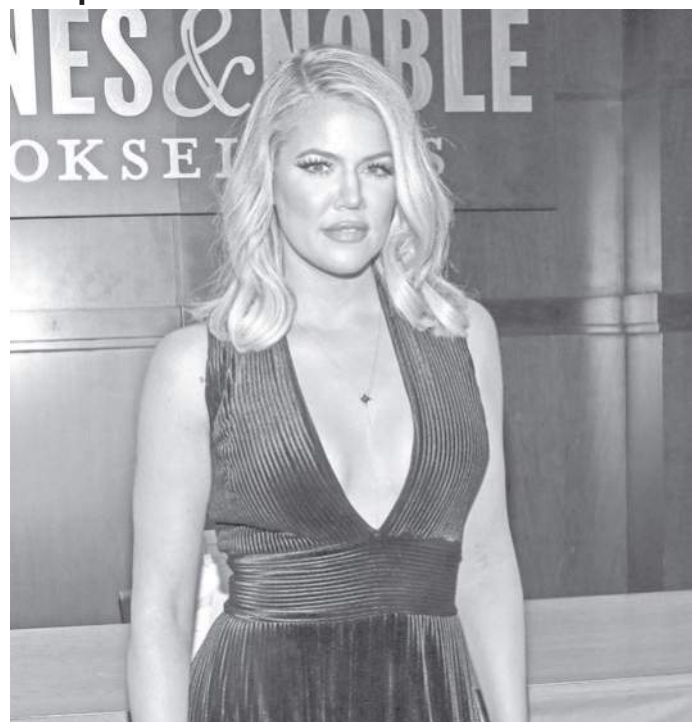
she said.

Even though they went through divorce proceedings, they are still technically married, and Kardashian rushed to his side after the former NBA star was found unconscious at a Nevada brothel in October. Odom is believed to have overdosed on cocaine and other drugs.

While Kardashian is still very involved in his recovery. She said he's still healing, a process she describes as "day by day."

"Every day like I say 'I'm doing press for the book.' And he'll just look like, 'What? What are you talking about?' And I'll remind him again. So it's constantly reminding him, but that's what we do every day until he gets better. And you know the brain is magical," she said. "It's gonna heal in time."

Kardashian, who also launches a talk show called "Kocktails with Khloe" Jan. 20 on the FYI network, has kept her sense of



In Monday, Nov. 9, 2015 file photo, Khloe Kardashian poses for a photo at the book-signing for her new book "Strong Looks Better Naked," at Barnes & Noble The Grove in Los Angeles. AP

humor through all the drama. She jokes about being a "polygamist" since she has maintained

her relationship with her boyfriend, NBA's James Harden, while caring for Odom.

Michelle Obama awards 13 youth arts programs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Calling a group of artistic youth the "next generation of fabulous," Michelle Obama presented national arts and humanities awards to 12 after-school programs from across the country and one international program from Honduras.

Honorees included a musical theater program co-created by comedian Rosie O'Donnell that serves low-income students in New York City.

The first lady presented the awards Tuesday to recognize the nation's best youth programs that use arts and humanities to develop skills and increase academic achievement. She honored programs that teach ceramics, dance, music, writing, science and more. Each of

the U.S. programs will receive \$10,000.

The annual White House ceremony included a live performance from winning program, A Commitment to Excellence, or ACTE II. The New York group performed a song and dance medley including "I Got Rhythm," "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," and "Empire State of Mind."

"Wow...that wasn't singing, that was 'singing,'" Mrs. Obama quipped, referring to the group which she predicted is destined for Broadway.

Mrs. Obama urged continued funding and support for arts and humanities programs, which she said also teach students problem-solving, teamwork and discipline.

"There are millions of kids like these with talent all over the place, and it's hidden and it's untapped and that's why these programs are so important," Mrs. Obama said. "We wouldn't know that all this existed without any of these programs and that would be a shame."

The 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards are hosted by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with three national cultural agencies.

The 13 programs recognized with a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award during the White House ceremony are:

- A Commitment to Excellence (ACTE II), New York.
- Action Arts and Science Program, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- Art High, Pasadena, Calif.
- CityDance DREAM Program, Washington.
- Spy Hop Productions, Salt Lake City.
- Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee.
- Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Inc., New Orleans.
- VSA Indiana, Inc., Indianapolis.
- The Center for Urban Pedagogy, Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Deep Center, Inc., Savannah, Ga.
- The Telling Room, Portland, Maine.
- Caldera, Portland, Oregon.
- Organization for Youth Empowerment (OYE), El Progreso, Honduras.



First lady Michelle Obama shakes hands with Ibrahim Shkara of The Telling Room in Portland, Maine during the 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. AP

Fortunately for Hallmark, holidays start early

NEW YORK (AP)—The Hallmark Channel may have aired a movie titled "I'm Not Ready for Christmas" last week, but its viewers clearly are.

The holiday season can't come early enough at Hallmark, where it officially began on Oct. 31. The family-friendly network devotes the final two months of the year to holiday programming, and its eager viewers made it the third most-watched cable network last week behind ESPN and Fox News Channel.

Prime-time viewership at Hallmark for the first two weeks of its holiday focus is up 89 percent over the network's average during October, the Nielsen company said.

"I'm Not Ready for Christ-

mas" had 3.6 million viewers for its premiere on Saturday, while Sunday's original movie, "Christmas Inc.," had 2.5 million, Nielsen said.

The network plans original movies for every evening of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Candace Cameron Bure, whose "Under Wraps" was the most-watched cable movie last year, is returning with the new film, "A Christmas Detour." The holiday movies are capped with "A Christmas Melody," a new movie starring Mariah Carey, on Dec. 19.

As anticipated, the second Democratic presidential debate had the smallest audience of any presidential contest so far this year. It was seen by 8.55 million

people on CBS last Saturday night, Nielsen said. The Republican Presidential Debate was the least watched of the four GOP contests, but set a record for viewership for Fox Business Network.

CBS won the week in prime time, averaging 10.2 million viewers. NBC had 8.3 million viewers, ABC had 6.2 million, Fox had 3.6 million, Univision had 2 million, the CW had 1.6 million, Telemundo had 1.5 million and ION Television had 1.2 million.

ESPN was the most popular cable network, averaging 2.71 million viewers. Fox News Channel had 2.29 million, Hallmark had 1.78 million, USA had 1.51 million and AMC had 1.5 million.

Feelings hurt in high school linger long after graduation

DEAR ABBY: I loved the letter from "Ready for the Reunion" (July 31), who wondered why some people in her high school graduating class didn't respond to the notice of the reunion. Some of us would like to completely forget high school and everything associated with it.

I missed my 10th, 20th, 30th and 40th year reunions. I did consider going to the last one, but then I started reading my former classmates' posts on the reunion website. It seems everyone is retired, wealthy, has numerous grandchildren, at least one retirement home in an exotic locale and spends their time relaxing and jetting around (or so they say). I'm still working, not wealthy, not particularly successful and have moved from my home state to the backwoods of middle America. Basically, I have a boring life, so I have nothing to brag about. I didn't go.

I'm still in contact with the important people in my life from high school and just don't need the aggravation of attending a reunion.

STAYING HOME

DEAR STAYING: Thank you for your input. I received a large number of responses to that letter, many of which were emotionally charged:

DEAR ABBY: My class just had its 45th reunion. I live 20 miles away, but have never attended one and I never will.

My best friend and I were bullied, insulted and excluded by our high school peers. After 45 years, we are still close friends. Neither

of us has any desire to see any of those people ever again.

High school was a miserable experience for us, and we couldn't wait to graduate and go off to college. Why would we want to socialize with them now? We forgave them long ago, but have no desire to relive those days. People need to realize that sometimes we move on and don't need to revisit the past.

CAROL IN GEORGIA

DEAR ABBY: My high school experience was traumatic to the point that it put me in therapy. People who look forward to these things look back on their high school days with fondness. I'm guessing that's because they weren't picked on for being fat, not coming from a rich family or being a minority.

I would rather walk barefoot across broken glass than spend another minute with my high school class. I ignore the invitations because my mother taught me if I can't say anything nice, I should say nothing at all.

RAY IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: Successful turnouts often occur as a result of personal outreach from the committee. A personalized note, phone call or other kind of targeted communication ("Dear Susie, we'd love to see you again. Please come.") will make a difference to an alum.

FORMER REUNION PLANNER IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ABBY: Of the 280 missing students, for a quarter of

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



them to be deceased would be par for the course. "Ready" should create a Facebook Groups page for her high school graduating class. Ours is very popular -- 35 percent of our former classmates are already part of it.

PETER IN NAPLES, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: It is possible that many of the graduates never received the invitation. Email contact information, phone numbers and addresses change often. I didn't receive anything about my 10-year reunion, but a few of my friends said they did. I can't respond to an invitation I didn't receive. -

ROD IN OMAHA

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors - is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Clear the deck?

4 Writer Ayn

8 Express awe

12 Feel fluish

13 "Ah, yes!"

14 This (Sp.)

15 Magazine with a centerfold

17 List-ending abbr.

18 "— hoo!"

19 They're no Einsteins

21 Reddish-brown

24 Cigar butt?

25 — -fi film

26 Female sib

28 Cranny

32 "Enchant-ed" girl of film

34 Balle-rina's 'do

36 Whiz (by)

37 White lily

39 Mac

DOWN

1 World view?

2 "Black gold"

3 Theater guide

4 Hard-ships

5 "Do — say!"

6 Dork

7 Author Ephron

8 "Wow!"

9 Wine region

10 Doc's "Now!"

11 Buds

16 Thee, today

20 ISP choice

21 "Hold on —!"

22 West Coast sch.

23 Pen tip

27 Foot-long lunch

29 Grammy-winning "Clocks" group

30 Nylons

31 Tall birds

33 Oran's land

35 Zealot

38 Org. with a famed journal

40 River spanner

43 Dam on the Nile

45 Hisser

46 Denny's rival

47 Novelist Hoag

48 Wrongs

49 Workout on a mat

53 Go bad

54 Gardner of "Show Boat"

55 Slangy OK

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterdays answer 11-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 53; Meg Ryan, 54; Allison Janney, 56; Ann Curry, 59.

Happy Birthday: Deal with emotional matters that have been dragging you down so that you can move forward and be productive. You have plenty to gain if you can ease your stress and get back to networking and drumming up interest in your business. Higher income is within your reach if you make suggestions and offer your services. Your numbers are 7, 10, 22, 26, 31, 35, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The partnerships and relationships in your life are undergoing changes. Be careful not to let anger take over. Life is short and can be dealt with in a fashion that is constructive instead of destructive. Love conquers all. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be afraid to ask for favors. Your ideas will spark some interesting comments and could lead to help from an unexpected source. You can accomplish a lot if you are willing to listen, learn and incorporate what you discover into your plans. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A demanding individual will try to lead you in a direction that isn't practical. Engage in something that will bring about positive changes and make you more appealing to someone you'd like a closer relationship with. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Live and learn. Take part in events that will give you a better view of the way other people live. A new venture or business trip will require a

lot of time, imagination and input in order to turn a profit. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Approach sensitive subjects cautiously. Not everyone will be willing to go along with the changes you want to make. Offer positive responses to people, but give them room to add their own creative input. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Question everything before you take action. It will take a significant amount of thought and deliberation to make the right choices. Not everyone will be up-front and you may have to pry to find out where you stand. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't give up on a dream, but try to have a practical approach in place. You can make positive personal changes and achieve greater happiness if you are honest about how you feel. Try to stay away from people who bring you down. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be true to yourself and you will have no regrets. A variety of people you have worked with and trusted in the past will help you now. Your passion and dedication will spark a greater interest in your projects. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't leave yourself open to criticism or emotional scrutiny. You'll have to move quickly if you are faced with deception or unexpected setbacks. Uncertainty is the enemy. Don't mince words or mislead others. Fairness is a must. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Lay out your financial plans. Put your ideas on paper and go over details with a fine-toothed comb. Talk to people who have experience in your field. Steer clear of anyone showing inconsistency. Don't let your ego cost you. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful not to become too dependent on anyone. You'll be fed false information if you are gullible. Ask questions even if someone gives you a hard time. Make personal and financial changes based on your needs. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Schedule some time for an interview, meeting or just to talk about possibilities with someone who can help you with an idea you want to pursue. Favors will be granted as long as you offer incentives. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are gracious, giving and aggressive. You are adaptable and outgoing.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

YOGI BERRA (1925-2015) Solution: 10 letters

P A S O R T S A Y M S T E M J
L L M G N I T T A B E M U O I
A L S H O R T N M C I I S T L
Y S I E E L A D A K D I G A M
E T I H E G L T E A E S W H I
R A G A E K C E T U M D H J T
H R O R L H N S G S I T O N Y
O L Y A E C T A I E I H M S E
U L W R A L E C Y K N N E S
S A T R O L I P R O H D R S R
T B M U R T I O R C V E U U E
O E I O T E Y P A O L I N A J
N S J I T W R O L H I T S C W
L A W R E N C E V R E S B O E
M B O N E L I N E R S Y V A N

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All-star, Astros, Baseball, Batting, Carman, Catcher, Causes, Coach, Dale, Eight, Hits, Home Runs, Houston, John, Josie, Larry, Lawdie, Lawrence, Legend, Major League, Manager, May, Mets, Mike, Navy, New Jersey, New York, Observe, One-liners, Paolina, Pietro, Player, Short, Stadium, St. Louis, The Hill, Tim, Tony, Walk, Witticisms, Yankees, Yogiisms

Yesterdays Answer: OnStar

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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- At least 2 years experience

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Email: tlssaipan@gmail.com

Job Announcement
For Qualified U.S. Citizens

Position: 1 Tour Coordinator **Salary:** \$ 6.05/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Coordinate all incoming schedules, assist in customer tour participation, explain in Japanese for all forms needed to be read and signed. Contacting other tour company for scheduling and reservations and other related duties as assigned to. Fully able to read, write and speak fluent Japanese. Must have at least 2 years experience in tour related activities.

Position: 1 Manager, Marine Service **Salary:** \$ 6.05/hr
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Direct activities of boat services, according to knowledge of maintenance need of small craft and marine safety requirements. Confers with owner or crew of vessel to obtain maintenance history and details concerning condition of craft. Observes and listen to vessel in operation to detect unsafe or malfunctioning equipment and leaks or other flaws in hull and superstructure. Must be able to repair/overhaul boat engine (gasoline or diesel) and other related duties as assigned. Employer Preference: College graduate with atleast 5 years experience and must be able to perform the job duties.

Position: Life Guard (3) **Salary:** \$6.05/hr.
Duties and Qualification Requirement:
Flexible time schedule. Must monitor activities in swimming areas to prevent accidents. Caution swimmers regarding unsafe areas. Rescue swimmers in danger or drowning. Must be able to administer CPR and First Aid, and perform other related duties as assigned. Must be a high school graduate with at least 2 years experience as life guard and posses unexpired life guard, CPR & First Aid Certificates (American Red Cross)

Interested applicants may submit their resume to the Marine Sports Center counter located at the beach side of Hafadai Beach Hotel not later than November 23, 2014.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AK Toyota Rental Agent

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Pistons rally for 104-99 win over Cavs despite James' 30



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Andre Drummond had 25 points and 18 rebounds and made some crucial free throws when he was fouled intentionally, helping the Detroit Pistons rally to a 104-99 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

LeBron James scored 23 of his 30 points in the first half, but the Pistons double-teamed him on a couple of big possessions down the stretch and Cleveland couldn't convert. The Cavs lost their second straight after winning eight in a row.

Drummond's free throw with 2:07 left gave the Pistons a 98-97 advantage, and Detroit was able to hold on.

It was 102-99 with 13.8 seconds remaining after Reggie Jackson made two free throws for the Pistons. J.R. Smith then missed a contested 3-pointer from near the top of the key.

Detroit snapped a four-game losing streak despite giving up the first nine points of the second half. Cleveland led 65-55 after that run, but the Pistons were able to stay within striking distance.

The Cavs led 97-93 when they decided to start intentionally fouling Drummond, who came in shooting 40 percent from the line. He made two free throws with 2:58 remaining, and after the Pistons tied it on a basket by Jackson, Cleveland fouled Drummond again. This time he made one of two free throws.

James passed out of a double team to Kevin Love, who missed from the corner, but the Pistons turned the ball over. Then James, double-teamed again, threw the ball away with 48.8 seconds remaining.

Jackson missed a floater, but Cleveland's Timofey Mozgov missed from the baseline and Cleveland had to foul. Jackson made two free throws with 21.3 seconds remaining.

James answered with a driving layup, but Jackson was fouled again and pushed the lead back to three.

Love scored 19 points, and Smith and Mo Williams had 15 each for Cleveland, which is still without injured star Kyrie Irving.

Jackson had 23 points and 12 assists for Detroit, and Ersan Il-yasova added 20 points.

Warriors 115, Raptors 110

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 37 points to lead defending champion Golden State to its 12th straight win to open the season, a hard-fought victory over Toronto.

Klay Thompson added 19 points and Andrew Bogut scored 13 for the Warriors, off to the best start since Dallas won the first 14 games in 2002-03. Golden State needs three wins to equal the NBA record of 15-0 held by the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and the 1993-94



Houston Rockets.

It didn't come easy as Toronto fought back from an 18-point deficit and trailed by one late in the game with the ball. But Kyle Lowry was called for an offensive foul and Curry hit two free throws to help seal it.

Lowry and DeMar DeRozan scored 28 points apiece for the Raptors, who have lost five of seven following a 5-0 start.

Nuggets 115, Pelicans 98

In New Orleans, Danilo Gal-

linari scored a season-high 32 points for the Nuggets and New Orleans' Anthony Davis hurt his left shoulder in the first quarter as Denver defeated the down-trodden Pelicans.

Jameer Nelson scored all 16 of his points in the last 14:10

^{AP} Detroit Pistons' Andre Drummond (0) tries going to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Timofey Mozgov during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

of the game, helping Denver secure its fourth victory in five games. Will Barton added 17 points and Gary Harris 16.

Ryan Anderson scored 24 and Eric Gordon 19 for the injury-riddled Pelicans, who were able to stay within single digits most of the game before fading in the final minutes.

Nets 90, Hawks 88

In New York, Brook Lopez had 26 points and Thaddeus Young hit two free throws with 1.4 seconds left to give Brooklyn a victory over Atlanta.

After a timeout, Young knocked away Thabo Sefolsha's inbound pass to Al Horford as time expired.

Young finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Jarrett Jack and Shane Larkin each had 14.

Horford scored 18 points for the Hawks. Paul Millsap had 17 and Kyle Korver added 13.

Timberwolves 103, Heat 91

In Miami, Andrew Wiggins scored 24 points and Zach LaVine added 17 as Minnesota overcame a triple-double by Miami's Hassan Whiteside to beat the Heat.

Shabazz Muhammad scored 16 and Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Minnesota, which snapped a four-game slide.

Whiteside had 22 points, 14 rebounds and 10 blocks—his

second triple-double—for Miami, which was outscored 41-22 in the fourth.

Luol Deng scored 20 points, Goran Dragic had 16 and Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh each scored 10 for Miami.

Knicks 102, Hornets 94

In New York, rookie Kristaps Porzingis scored a season-high 29 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as New York beat Charlotte.

Less than a week after he just missed beating the Hornets when his 3-pointer was ruled after the buzzer, Porzingis couldn't be denied by Charlotte defenders or the clock in the 20-year-old Latvian's biggest moment in the NBA.

The slender, 7-foot-3 forward who was thunderously booed when the Knicks drafted him with the No. 4 pick had fans chanting "Por-zing-is! Por-zing-is!" in the fourth quarter, shortly after his three-point play gave the Knicks a 93-81 lead.

Carmelo Anthony added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks. Arron Afflalo scored 16.

Kemba Walker scored a season-high 31 points for the Hornets.

Wizards 115, Bucks 86

In Washington, John Wall had 19 points, nine assists and six rebounds as Washington beat Milwaukee.

Otto Porter also scored 19 to help the Wizards win by double digits for the first time this season. Washington had six players in double figures.

Milwaukee was led by Khris Middleton, who scored 14 points in the team's worst loss of the season.

Investigator: Russian track team still can make it to Rio

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—The author of the report that detailed anti-doping corruption in Russia believes the country that spent \$51 billion on hosting the Sochi Olympics should be able to fix its system in time to get the track team to next year's Summer Games.

Remaking Russia's attitude toward doping could take longer, but Dick Pound doesn't think that's the most urgent matter.

"I don't think you'll get the culture fixed in nine months but you can do actions that will come to the same result," Pound said Tuesday, after addressing the World Anti-Doping Agency's executive board. "In a sense, I don't care whether you're there with clean athletes if the only reason is fear of getting caught, as opposed to thinking that's the right thing to do. Listen, Russia built Sochi in seven years. This is child's play."

Sochi was a mere dot on the

map before it landed the right to host the Olympics. Spearheaded by President Vladimir Putin, the country built up the city and hosted last year's Games.

Pound's independent commission concluded the government must have known about rampant doping schemes in Russia's system. The commission recommended decertification of Russia's anti-doping lab and anti-doping agency (RUSADA). A vote by WADA's Foundation Board to suspend RUSADA comes Wednesday and Pound said "everyone in the world expects that to happen, and it would be astonishing if it didn't."

The question is whether the lab, the anti-doping agency and the track team, provisionally suspended by the sport's ruling body (IAAF), can all fall into compliance in less than nine months, before the start of next year's Summer Games in Rio

de Janeiro.

Pound said the political powers have to lead the effort.

"They have to say, 'Look, RUSADA is independent, the lab is independent and anybody who doesn't make that happen is in trouble,'" Pound said.

"Same with the coaches. They say, 'Folks, the old Soviet system is over. And if that's your method of coaching, don't let the door hit your butt on the way out.'"

Pound called Russia's initial reaction to the report "negative," but has noticed a change of tone since.

Leaders of the Russian and International Olympic Committees met last weekend to start making a roadmap that would bring the Russian track federation into compliance.

No timelines have been set. On Monday, a group of anti-doping leaders sent WADA a letter asking them to bar Russians from the Olympics, say-

ing less than nine months isn't enough time to ensure the program is clean.

"We're not convinced there's enough time between now and then for them to clean their act up," said David Kenworthy, the chairman of the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations.

Pound didn't necessarily

agree, but said time is of the essence.

"They've got to bite the bullet and go full speed ahead to get all this stuff done in time for Rio," Pound said. "If they start fighting over it, fine, take your time. All the time you want. But, by the way, you're not going to get to work on your suntan next summer."



^{AP} A car is driven past the Anti-Doping Center, Russia's national laboratory for sports drug testing in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015.

Manziel named Browns' new starting QB, cleared by NFL



BEREA, Ohio (AP)—There was no formal presentation or fanfare. No torch passing ceremony.

Browns coach Mike Pettine simply pulled Johnny Manziel aside and told him he would be Cleveland's starting quarterback for the remainder of this season.

No longer just a celebrated bad-boy backup, Manziel joined an elite class.

The trick will be staying there.

Manziel's budding pro career, dotted mostly by missteps on and off the field to this point—the NFL said Tuesday he will not be disciplined for a domestic case—seems to be finally headed in the right direction for him. Now, the Browns will find out if he can be their franchise QB.

Fresh off a strong start at Pittsburgh on Sunday, Manziel moved ahead of veteran Josh McCown on the depth chart, a switch that will either usher in a new era for the Browns or send them scrambling again to fill a troublesome position.

"I wanted the chance to be the guy and that was always my goal," said Manziel, who was watching film before Pettine told him the news. "I'm excited, I think as I should be. This is a great opportunity with a great group of guys that are going to go out and fight with me every week."

Pettine made the change before the team's first bye-week practice, two days after Manziel passed for a career-high 372 yards in a 30-9 loss to the Steelers. He also flashed a few of those Johnny Football moments that won him the Heisman Trophy at Texas A&M.

After fumbling on his first play, Manziel regrouped and completed 33 of 45 passes with one touchdown. He didn't lead the Browns (2-8) to victory, but Manziel showed he's learning from his mistakes, growing more comfortable in the pocket and ready to take his biggest step yet.

"The performance against Pittsburgh validated for us the progress he's made and the improvement he's shown and that he deserves this opportunity," Pettine said. "We understand where our season is at this point and this is a kid we've invested a lot in. This will give us an opportunity to see how far he's come and what he's capable of."

On the same day he was named a starter, Manziel also learned he will not be fined or suspended for his actions in a domestic incident last month in Avon, Ohio. The 22-year-old was questioned on Oct. 12 by police following an in-car argument with his girlfriend.

The league said it interviewed several people, including Manziel and his girlfriend, Colleen Crowley, who told police he had been violent with her. Manziel



AP
Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel (2) is tackled by the face mask by Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker Arthur Moats (55) in the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, in Pittsburgh.

admitted to drinking before the argument. He was not arrested.

Manziel released a statement Tuesday night through his friend and advisor, Brad Beckworth.

"I appreciate the NFL's diligence and discretion in reviewing a situation that was both personal and embarrassing," Manziel said. "Colleen and I cooperated fully with the NFL's process and completely support their goals of making sure that every family under their umbrella is safer and more

secure. I'm grateful that the review was so thorough and fair that there should be no question left in the public mind about what actually happened."

For Manziel, being named a starter is both a personal milestone and evidence that he's turned his life around following a disappointing first season and 10-week stay in a Pennsylvania rehab facility for an unspecified condition.

Pettine is giving his players the bye weekend off. He spoke to Manziel about his behavior

and the club's expectations for him away from the field as the face of the franchise.

"He's done some things to affect that trust, clearly," Pettine said. "He understands it. He knows with these expectations comes great responsibility. That's something he knows he has to return."

Manziel promised his coach he would be a model citizen.

"I let him know that I'm not going to do anything that's going to be a distraction to this team or be an embarrassment

to the organization," Manziel said. "I don't think they're going to have to worry about me this week."

Once back to work, the Browns, who have dropped five straight games, will prepare for a Nov. 30 game against Baltimore, a Monday night matchup between two struggling teams certain to draw more TV viewers with Manziel starting.

"Coach Pett said I couldn't ask for a better stage," Manziel said.

And, it's an ideal platform for the Browns to further evalu-

ate Manziel's growth as a quarterback and leader. Now 1-4 as a starter, the final six games could be an audition for 2016 and beyond.

"I was just looking forward to coming out and trying to have a little bit of a spark and more than anything, get some wins," Manziel said. "That's what I told coach Pett, no matter what happens, whether you think this may be for next year or whatever the case is, we're going to win some of these games down the road."

Raiders linebacker Aldon Smith suspended a year

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—Oakland Raiders linebacker Aldon Smith was suspended Tuesday by the NFL for one calendar year because of violations of the league's substance-abuse policy.

The penalty is effective immediately and Smith will be eligible to apply for reinstatement no sooner than 60 days before the end of the suspension.

Smith, 26, was released by the San Francisco 49ers in August after several run-ins with the law and then landed across the bay with the Raiders. Smith went through the locker room and told teammates goodbye Tuesday before the suspension was officially announced.

Smith released a statement Tuesday night thanking the Raiders their fans and owner Mark Davis for their support.

"I am taking this time to work on myself and become the man I need to be, my team and organization needs me to be, and I know I can be," he said. "I had lost my love for the game and it led me to some poor choices, but I am thankful

to the Raider organization for believing in me this season and will continue to better myself and grow from my experiences. I look forward to rejoining the team next year."

Smith will be a free agent after the season but the Raiders said they would like to bring him back when he is eligible to play again.

"Aldon has been a positive addition to the Raiders," the team said in a statement. "He remains prominently in our long term plans and we will continue to support this member of our family as he gets the help that he needs."

Smith becomes the first player suspended for a full year since Cleveland's Josh Gordon in February—also for substance abuse.

The Niners released Smith on Aug. 7 following his fifth run-in with the law a night earlier on an off day from training camp. The franchise parted ways with one of football's most menacing pass-rushers after Santa Clara police accused him of drunken driving, hit and run and vandalism.

Smith was in a contract year. He started seven games and played in nine for the Raiders, finishing his second straight suspension-shortened season with 28 tackles and 3 1/2 sacks. Smith was coming off one of his best games of the season in Oakland's 30-14 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday when he had one sack and three quarterback hurries.

He missed the first nine games of the 2014 season while serving an NFL suspension for violations of the league's substance-abuse and personal-conduct policies.

Smith signed a one-year contract with Oakland just two days before the season opener. The deal could have earned him as much as \$8 million with bonuses and incentives.

The Raiders practiced at their facility earlier in the day and players were filing into the locker room when news of Smith's suspension broke.

Smith pulled quarterback Derek Carr into an adjacent room and the two spoke at length before Smith returned to the locker room and began say-

ing goodbye to several other teammates, including wide receiver Michael Crabtree, who played with him in San Francisco.

Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said in September that the team was well aware of Smith's legal situation, surely knowing he might not be with the team for long given the possibility of another lengthy suspension. Still, it's a big blow to a team still hoping to make a playoff run.

Police said in the August incident that Smith collided with a parked vehicle while parking his car, then caused further damage to the parked vehicle with his car door. The scene was only a couple of miles from 49ers team headquarters, at or on the street of Smith's former luxury apartment complex.

Authorities said Smith left without reporting the collision or providing any identifying information. He later returned and was contacted by officers. Smith displayed "objective symptoms of being under the influence of an alcoholic bev-

erage" and officers conducted a field sobriety test, police said.

That was the latest known incident for Smith in a long list of off-field issues.

He missed time during the 2013 season to undergo treatment at an inpatient facility following his DUI arrest on Sept. 20, 2013. That November, he pleaded not guilty to three felony counts of illegal possession of an assault weapon, stemming from a June 2012 party at his home.

Smith was arrested on April 13, 2014, at Los Angeles International Airport. Police said Smith was randomly selected for a secondary screening and became uncooperative with the process, telling a TSA agent that he had a bomb. No charges were filed.

He was drafted seventh overall in the first round by San Francisco in 2011 out of Missouri. He emerged as one of the NFL's top defenders in 2012 with a franchise-record 19 1/2 sacks during the team's run to the Super Bowl.

ESPN first reported the suspension.

Tiebreak gives Kautz SGA November Ace



JON PEREZ

Rick Kautz, standing third right, and the other members of the Saipan Golfers Association pose before teeing off in hole No. 1 of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course for the November Ace of the Month last Sunday.

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rick Kautz bested John Lizama for the Saipan Golfers Association November Ace of the Month last Sunday held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course.

Kautz and Lizama ended up tied but the former secured the berth to the SGA's yearend tournament after the scorecard tiebreak method.

Either way, Kautz would be the SGA November Ace since Lizama had already secured his

spot for the yearend tournament after topping the June event.

The longtime CNMI businessman, who has a six handicap, had a slow start with a 6-over 42 at the front nine but bounced back with an even-par 36 for a 78 gross and a 72 net.

Lizama shot a pair of 44s at the front and back for a gross score of 88 and with a 16 handicap gave him that 72 to tie Kautz for first place.

Kautz, however, was named the SGA's November Ace based on the group's scorecard tiebreak method. He now joins 10 other SGA members that won the monthly honors.

CNMI Attorney General Ed Manibusan (January), John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Larry Deleon Guerrero (March), Jung Eun Teack (April), Alex Tudela (May), Lizama (June), Jess Castro (July), Nick Sablan (August), Frances Sablan (September), and Greg Sablan (October) are the other Ace of the Month winners.

Steve Balakrishna came in third behind a 41-41 round for an 82 gross and with an eight handicap finished two shots behind the co-leaders with a 74.

Tony Deleon Guerrero, Frank Castro, Nani Cruz, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Frances Sablan, Ed Sablan, and Jung finished from

fourth to 10th place, respectively.

Manibusan was the longest drive winner in the 472-yard par-5 No. 3, while Kautz equaled the feat in the 412-yard par-4 No. 10.

Lizama led the closest to the pin winners in the par-3 No. 4, while John Lizama, Tony Deleon Guerrero, Jung, and Greg Sablan won it in No. 4, 6, 11, and 15, respectively.

The SGA December Ace of the Month is set on Dec. 13, Sunday, this time at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Show time is at 9am while tee-off starts at 10am.

Cubs' Maddon, Texas' Banister selected Managers of the Year



NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Maddon and

Jeff Banister were a huge hit in their new jobs. Now, immediate team success has reaped individual rewards.

Maddon won his third Manager of the Year award Tuesday and Banister his first after each guided an unexpected run to the playoffs.

In his initial season with the Chicago Cubs, Maddon took the National League prize following the club's first postseason appearance since 2008. He also won in the AL with Tampa Bay in 2008 and 2011.

"It's really good to know that what you believe in works in other places," Maddon said during a break from his pizza-and-wine celebration with family and friends. "I didn't tweak anything. It was the same approach."

Maddon received 18 of 30 first-place votes and 124 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He beat out St. Louis' Mike Matheny and the New York Mets' Terry Collins by a surprisingly comfortable

margin, becoming the seventh manager to win the award at least three times and the seventh to earn it in both leagues.

"To be the steward of this wonderful group of young players, I feel very fortunate," Maddon said on MLB Network.

Banister garnered 17 first-place votes and 112 points, easily topping Houston's A.J. Hinch and Hall of Famer Paul Molitor from the Minnesota Twins, another rookie skipper.

Banister joined Houston's Hal Lanier (1986), San Francisco's Dusty Baker (1993), Florida's Joe Girardi (2006) and Washington's Matt

Williams (2014) as the only men to win in their first season as a major league manager.

"To be able to have this in year one—tremendous," Banister said. "But it means that we had a group of players that went out every single day, they showed up, they played well, they beat back some odds, they were resilient, they showed some grit and played together and really, truly played for each other on a nightly basis, and I was most proud of that."



Banister



Maddon

SHIRLEY'S

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to sweep the two titles this year, as it also topped the spring season, edging the same rival. Shirley's held an 8-2-0 record in the spring season against the 7-3-0 mark of Matansa.

In other results in the girls U15 division, Tan Holdings and Kanoa ended the season on a winning note after prevailing in their respective games.

Tan Holdings nipped MP United, 6-5, to move up to second place—two notches higher from its finish in the spring season.

Chloe Salvosa led Tan Holdings' win, as she made a hat-trick in their last game in the division. Salvosa recorded Tan Holdings' lone goal in the first half, had her second early in the final frame, and hit the team's last goal in the match. Krizel

Mae Tuazon added a pair, while Chevy Kate Alipio posted the other goal.

Maaya Sato duplicated Salvosa's feat, while Gillian Villagomez nailed the two other goals for MP United.

Kanoa also had a better finish this season, climbing from last to fifth place after shutting down Kanoa, 4-0.

Shakira Francisco, Pauline Grace Joyce, and Hannah Santos delivered goals for Paire, which got an own goal in first half.

Meanwhile, Tan Holdings remained on top of the team standings in the boys U18 division after beating Matansa, 2-0, at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Sean Perez and Joel Fruit scored for Tan Holdings with the former lighting up the board in the sixth minute and the latter doing the same in the 37th. Tan

Holdings improved its record to 5-0-0, one win ahead of MP United, which got a free victory after Paire came up short in manpower for the second game in the division.

With the loss via forfeiture, Paire is still winless in five games and is behind Matansa, which holds a 1-0-4 card.

Only one playing week is left for the boys U18 division before the fall champion is crowned. The division champion will be known this Saturday when Tan Holdings collides against MP United in the second game at 4:15pm. A win by Tan Holdings will give the team the championship, while the loss will allowed MP United to tie the former's record. Before the anticipated Tan Holdings-MP United tiff, Paire and Matansa will square off in the first match at 2:30pm.

Mike Cabanas, relieving Jon and Jesse Santos, Jeff Deleon Guerrero, and Jesse Doseo, while Andrew Palino remained as the team's quarterback.

Before Jon and Jesse rode the bench, they scored GMI Market's last 12 points in the fourth and allowed the team to take the driver's seat from GMJ/IKKI momentarily. The two finally reported back for duty with GMJ/IKKI threatening to pull away going into the last six minutes and spare of the fourth period. GMI Market started the fourth with Donnel Isip, Treat Kaipat, Ben Petersburg, and

However, Jon's basket failed to anchor a GMI Market rally while GMJ/IKKI wisely used the time to protect its lead and hit a few more baskets to seal the deal.

Blue Haus 90, Erika's/Ferrera 64

Blue Haus barged into the win column after routing Erika's Catering/Ferrera Builders.

Blue Haus held Erika's/Ferrera to 4 points in the first quarter to set up the easy victory.

Erika's/Ferrera got its 4 markers from the field goals by Sandy Quemado and Joseph Gatdula, while Blue Haus drew

GAMES

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formed last month, has yet to meet with government officials led by Gov. S. Eloy Inos.

"We still haven't heard from the governor. We're still waiting for any word from the Governor's Office. The oversight committee is set to meet with them so we could finally form the organizing committee," he added.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres has been the acting governor since Inos left last month for a check up and surgery in the mainland.

The oversight committee, which needs to elect a chairman, will initially oversee Saipan's preparations for the Mini Games until an organizing committee, including a chairman, gets hired or named.

Three NMSA board members, four governor's appointees, and one from the Pacific Games Council are the members of the oversight committee.

White, NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes, and secretary Rose Igitol represent the CNMI sports sector, while Inos' four appointees include businessman Jerry Tan, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, Merced Tomokane, and Virginia Villagomez. PGC president Vidhta Lakan represents the council.

Athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, va'a, volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling are the 12 sports to be played in the 2021 Mini Games. American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Guam, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk

Island, Samoa, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna are the other competing countries aside from host CNMI.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	4	.600	—
Toronto	7	5	.583	—
New York	6	6	.500	1
Brooklyn	2	9	.182	4½
Philadelphia	0	11	.000	6½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	8	5	.615	—
Miami	6	4	.600	½
Washington	5	4	.556	1
Orlando	5	6	.455	2
Charlotte	5	6	.455	2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	8	3	.727	—
Chicago	7	3	.700	½
Indiana	6	5	.545	2
Detroit	6	5	.545	2
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	8	2	.800	—
Dallas	7	4	.636	1½
Memphis	6	6	.500	3
Houston	4	7	.364	4½
New Orleans	1	10	.091	7½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	6	5	.545	—
Denver	6	5	.545	—
Utah	5	5	.500	½
Minnesota	5	6	.455	1
Portland	4	8	.333	2½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	12	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	6	4	.600	5
L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	5
Sacramento	4	7	.364	7½
L.A. Lakers	2	9	.182	9½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GMJ/IKKI

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up in GMJ/IKKI's scoring spree in the early goings of the fourth period, while GMI Market was held scoreless for nearly five minutes bridging the third and final frame.

GMI Market managed to take a 63-61 cushion with about a minute left in the third before it went cold at the start of the fourth canto after opting to change players at the beginning of the playoff period. GMI Market started the fourth with Donnel Isip, Treat Kaipat, Ben Petersburg, and

21 points from five players led by the 6 of Adonis Macoto.

Blue Haus continued to have a balance offense in the remaining three periods en route to its 26-point winning margin. With its even scoring, six Blue Haus players hit double figures with Junar Guiab pacing the team with his 16 markers.

Open Division

GMJ/IKKI 93 — Borja 22, Camacho 14, Dizon 13, Mangali 11, Cortez 8, Ferrer 8, Sison 7, T. Montes 6, A. Montes 2, Saplan 2.

GMI Market 79 — Jon San-

tos 24, Je. Santos 14, Sablan 10, Palino 8, Cabanas 7, Petersburg 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Isip 5.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 44-39, 65-63, 93-79.

Masters Division

Blue Haus 90 — Guiab 16, Itaas 12, Diaz 11, Mendoza 10, Santos 10, Palacios 8, Rasa 6, Macoto 6, Moises 4, Buenabajo 3.

Erika's/Ferrera 64 — Fernandez 16, Catalla 16, Jo. Gatdula 11, Lopez 10, Quemado 6, De Belen 5.

Scoring by quarters: 24-4, 48-32, 56-47, 90-64.

Seo, Carey take top spots in Tour of Guam



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Local and international cyclists prepare for the annual Tour of Guam, which began and finished in Hagatna.

TUMON, Guam—In just a little more than three hours, Joon Yong Seo from Korea claimed his first ever Tour of Guam title, winning the 105km Competitive Long Course in the open men's division with a time of 3:01:13, besting last year's winning time of 3:19:17 set by Guam's Peter Lombard.

Lombard finished in second place with a personal best 3:07:04, followed closely behind by fellow Guam cyclist Patrick Camacho at a time of 3:07:05.

Guam's top male cyclists Lombard and Camacho have made their way to the podium for the past two events, followed closely by Jonathan Martin, who finished in fourth place this year with a time of 3:07:06.

Meiko Carey took the 105km

Competitive Long Course women's open division with a finish time of 3:15:22. Manami Iijima (4:06:08) and Sarah Huber (4:13:29) finished in second and third place, respectively, in that same division.

Guam Visitors Bureau, along with Guam Sports Events, Inc., welcomed more than 30 international cyclists and their families to participate in the regions premier cycling event for age group racers and visitors. The 7th Annual Tour of Guam took place on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, starting and finishing at the Ada's Capitol Plaza in Hagatna with cyclists enjoying the scenic southern and central roads of Guam along the way.



"Much like the Ko'ko' Road Race and the Guam International Marathon, Tour of Guam is another wonderful opportunity for us to share our hospitality and beauty of our island with our visitors. The Hafa Adai spirit of our resident cyclists and their interaction with visiting cyclists made this year's Tour of Guam an incredible experience," said Ben Ferguson, Managing Director for Guam Sports Events, Inc. "I'd like to thank everyone who made this event happen, from the Guam Police Department, the Guam Fire Department and the Mayor's Council of Guam, to our marshals who looked out for our cyclists on the course

and the Notre Dame High School students who helped to keep our cyclists hydrated. Thank you for a job well done." Results for the 2015 race will be posted on www.tourofguam.com.

Guam Sports Events, Inc. and the Guam Cycling Federation would like to thank our valued sponsors: Guam Visitors Bureau, TakeCare Insurance, Ada's Trust and Investment Corporation, the Lujan Family, Pacific Islands Club and Pow-erade/Fruita+. We extend our special thanks to the Offices of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, Guam Fire Department, Guam Police Department-Highway Patrol Division, and the Mayors Council of Guam. (PR)

'Pikaboo' to face new foe in PXC 50

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez will be facing a new foe when he climbs the Pacific Xtreme Combat cage next month as one of the undercards in the Frank "The Crank" Camacho-Tyrone "Bones" Jones headliner in PXC 50 on Dec. 4 at the University of Guam Calvo Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

Camacho (17-3 with 13 knockouts) will be facing Guam's Jones (5-4 with 3 KOs) for the vacant PXC lightweight belt after the semi main event where Yusuke Yachi of Japan (13-4 with 2 KOs) will try to defend his featherweight championship belt against Australian Alex "The Hulk" Volkanovsky (10-1 with 6 KOs).

Alvarez (11-2 with 3 KOs) will now be facing Yutaro Muramoto in a three-round bout in the 125-lb (flyweight) weight class after fellow Japanese bet Kentaro Watanabe (10-7 with 3 KOs) unexpectedly pulled out.

The Trench Tech fighter, in an exclusive interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said he did not stop training right after his victory by rear-naked choke submission of Filipino bet Jessie "The Finisher" Rafols (8-5 with 1 KO) in PXC 49 last Aug. 7 also in Guam.

"We started training camp early a few days after my win [over Jessie Rafols]. It has been a solid three months of almost everyday training. You got to work hard for it if you want to be the best," said Alvarez during a break in his training at the

Trench Tech Gym.

"Right now, I'm starting to cut weight to reach the 125-lb weight limit. I'm trying to lose a pound a day. I am doing a lot of jogging that's why I drink a lot of water, because once you started to sweat, it won't stop. Also, I'm on a strict lean meat diet and I'm sticking to eating green vegetables," added Alvarez.

He said that he plans to do nothing fancy against Muramoto and will try to fight smart. "I'll try to watch it closely. I plan to have an exciting fight against him. Keep it simple and fight smart."

Muramoto is no pushover since the Komatsu City-born fighter's two wins where by way of knockout—a flying knee to Kenji Yamanaka (0-3) in 32 seconds of the first round in the Tribe Tokyo Fight Challenge 5 last September and a TKO by punches against Tyuyoshi Minamide (3-2 with 2 KOs) in the 3:59 mark of the second round in Heat 35 in March of this year.

He lost by against fellow Japanese Ryosuke Kano in Wardog Cage Fight 5 on July 18.

Roman "Boom" Alvarez and Josh "Chaos" Duenas, Shane's stablemates at the Trench Tech Gym, are also on the fight card against separate opponents.

Roman Alvarez (7-0 with 3 KOs), who is Shane's cousin, will take on Mark Abelardo of New Zealand (11-4 with 6 KOs), while Duenas (4-5 with 1 KO), who just replaced Vince "The Clinch" Masga, faces another Kiwi in Kai-whare Kara-France (10-5 with 5 KOs).

Three-cornered fight shaping up in Tuesday billiards

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A three-cornered fight between teams supported by Jokers Bar & Grill is slowly shaping up in the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

The IT&E Voyagers along with the Destroyers and the Docomo Hustlers, despite losing their match last Tuesday, are in the thick of things for the Tuesday League crown.

The Voyagers enjoy the top view with a 26-13 record followed closely by the Destroyers' 23-16 slate with the Hustlers not far behind at 21-18.

The StraightBlackBall (17-22), Jonny's Titans (16-23), and Crazy 8 (14-25) complete the standings in the six-team field.

The Voyagers were victorious in its 3-on-3 match up against the StraightBlackBall, 10-3, to remain on top of the

leaderboard.

Mark Butac, R.J. Mascarinas, and Brian Nelvis bested the trio of Neil Ayson, Rodel Dela Cruz, and Rey Hermogenes for the win.

All 13 matches are always played since each win or loss would be added to the record of the team, with the squad wit the most victories clinching the season crown.

Butac, Mascarinas, and Nelvis swept all three matches in

the Singles 8-Ball events for the lopsided contest against the StraightBlackBall.

The Destroyers and the Titans each completed 8-5 decisions against the Hustlers and the Crazy 8.

The foursome of Nolan Cultura, Jeff Garcia, Rico Montano, and Cesar Sangalang bested the seven-member crew of the Rowel Mariano-captained Hustlers.

It was almost the same story between the Titans and the Crazy 8 where Jack Thornsaket, John Reyes, Ray Matsunaga, and Randy Sablan outshooting the Crazy 8 crew of Warlee Ellama, Rey Pinangay, Zaldy Quebral, and Victor Formales.

Week 4 action resumes on Nov. 24 with the StraightBlackBall battling the Hustlers, the Voyagers hosting the Crazy 8, and the Destroyers visiting the Titans.

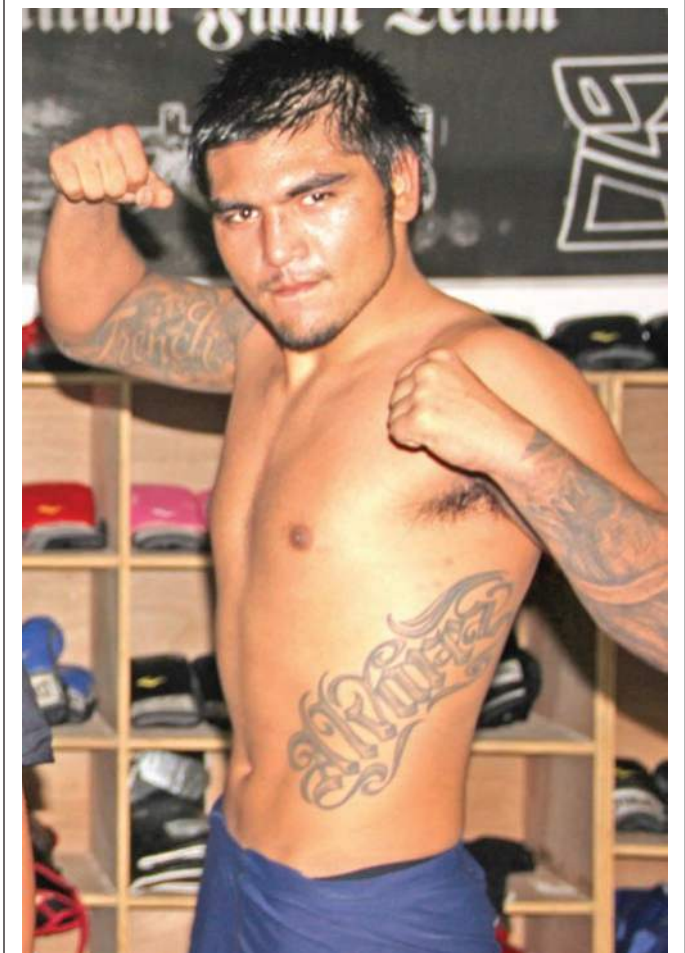
There will be no games in the Thursday League on Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day.

Matches will resume on Dec. 3 with the Wild Bill's Rack 'N' Roll facing the Jokers Wild-Boyz, National Alamo taking up the Jokers Homeboyz, and Team SCS clashing with the Wild Bill's Wild Wild West.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Jonny's Titans are in good spirits after beating sister team Crazy 8 in last Tuesday night's Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.



JON PEREZ

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez hopes to ride the momentum of his victory over Jessie "The Finisher" Rafols last August when he takes on Japanese bet Yutaro Muramoto in next month's Pacific Xtreme Combat 50 at the University of Guam Calvo Fieldhouse.

Pistons rally
for 104-99 win
over Cavs despite
James' 30

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Seo, Carey take
top spots in
Tour of Guam

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's FC clinches girls U15 tiara

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club dethroned Matansa FC in the girls U15 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League after pulling off a 2-1 victory in the final week of the shortened season last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Jerlyn Castillo handed Shirley's FC the division championship after scoring the winning goal in the 48th minute. De Jana Muna nailed the other goal for Shirley's in the fifth minute, while Lyka Sally registered the equalizer for Matansa three minutes later.

Shirley's finished the round-robin season with a 3-2-0



win-draw-loss record to lead Tan Holdings (3-1-1), Matansa (3-0-2), MP United (2-0-3), Kanoa (2-0-3), and Paire (0-1-4). The win was sweet revenge for Shirley's, as it fell to Matansa, 0-3, in the division-championship deciding game last fall season. The victory also allowed Shirley's

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Shirley's FC player runs ahead of MP United FC defenders during an earlier girls U15 division game in the NMIFA youth league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

GMJ/IKKI reclaims solo lead

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
GMJ/IKKI Wholesale's Juan Camacho goes up for a layup against GMI Market's Mike Cabanas during the fourth quarter of their open division game in the San Antonio caging last Tuesday at the San Antonio court.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



GMJ/IKKI regained the solo lead in the West Group of the open division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after beating GMI Market, 93-79, last Tuesday night at the San Antonio court.

GMJ/IKKI notched its fifth win in six games to lead Blue Haus (4-1), Pacific Islands Club (4-2), Cholos (3-1), Ferrera Builders (1-4), GMI Market (1-4), and Armatech

(0-4) and boost its bid for the outright semis ticket that will be given to the top finisher in their group.

The GMI Market-GMJ/IKKI duel was a close fight in the first three periods with the former even leading twice late in the third before the latter pulled away in the first three minutes and change of the fourth to cruise to victory.

GMJ/IKKI launched a 13-0 run in the first 3:39 of the final canto, turning a slim 65-63 advantage to a 78-63 spread. Five different players teamed

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Facilities main concern for '21 Mini Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Renovation of existing sports venues and construction of other facilities are still the main concern of the Northern Marianas Sports Association as Saipan gears up to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Repairs and other improvements on Saipan's existing sports facilities destroyed by several typhoons that hit the island the last three months, particularly Typhoon Soude-lor, have yet to start but NMSA president Mike White is optimistic that everything will be finished before 2021.

White said that aside from renovation, additional facilities like toilets and showers must also be built to accommodate the more than estimated 2,000 athletes, coaches, and officials that will arrive for the scaled-down version of the Pacific Games.

"The facilities remain the big issue. Aside from repairing the damage, we need to build additional toilets and shower facilities," said White in a brief talk with the *Saipan Tribune* after NMSA's monthly meeting last

week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

An additional grandstand at the track and field stadium must also be built for the centerpiece athletics event while extra bleachers are also needed for baseball, where the CNMI is expected to vie for a medal.

NMSA executive director

Tony Rogolifoi, during the meeting, said that they are now waiting for the Federal Emergency Management Administration's monetary grant that will be go through the Governor's Office.

FEMA Media Relations manager Kurt H. Pickering, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, said NMSA is not eligible to receive public assis-

tance funding from them since they are a private sports group.

But with the Oleai Sports Complex still owned by the government, money for the repairs of the sports facilities was made possible and will be given to the Governor's Office, which will then release the funds.

White said the Pacific Mini Games oversight committee,

See GAMES on Page 26



JON PEREZ

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which could host weightlifting and wrestling events in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, needs major repairs after being damaged by several typhoons.